The Past Fifty Years 1957 to 2007

The Tradition Continues

Weston Grammar School
to
Weston Collegiate Institute
1857 - 2007

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PREFACE

The thought of writing this book came to Orlando Martini in January 1999 while he was preparing to interview Miss Dora Wattie, one of the most popular teachers that ever graced the halls of Weston Collegiate. The interview had been arranged in order to prepare a biographical sketch of Dora for the 1999 Newsletter of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation. During the interview, Dora was asked if she had ever considered writing a sequel to her history book of the first one hundred years of Weston Collegiate (1857-1957). Without hesitation she responded "No" but she hoped that someone might prepare a commemorative book covering the period 1957-2007 for the School's 150th Anniversary Celebrations (Dora Wattie was 91 years old at that time of the subject 1999 interview).

Sporadically, during 1999, Orlando Martini discussed Dora Wattie's suggested book with several colleagues and acquaintances, most of whom thought it was a great idea. Several agreed to assist with its preparation and several declined to get involved. Because of budgetary constraints, it was decided early on that if the project were to proceed, it would rely on the work of volunteers only i.e. no paid staff. During the first two years of the new millennium, several informal meetings were arranged which focused on the type of book and the preparation of a preliminary Table of Contents. In that period also, Dr. Wesley Turner (class of 1952 WCVS), a retired history professor from Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, agreed to assume the role of Editor-In-Chief for the project. The Steering Committee for the project was formed in September 2002, when the following persons who had shown the most interest agreed to serve:

Mrs. Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne
Mr. John Hall
Mr. Orlando Martini
Mrs. Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman
Mr. Douglas Musselwhite

Teachers and staff of Weston Collegiate have influenced the lives of thousands of students and contributors to this book firmly believe that this story (of teacher influence) is worth telling. In this commemorative book, the approach taken differs from Miss Wattie's which was a path-breaking history of a school written by a single author. For this volume, all who were involved agreed to incorporate as a major element, the voices of those who attended or taught in the Collegiate. It is hoped that readers will enjoy this history and that it will increase their appreciation of how Weston Collegiate may continue to contribute positively both to its community and to the larger stage of Canada.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Dora Wattie and the teachers and staff of Weston Collegiate that have profoundly influenced (and continue to influence) the lives of thousands of students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the outset, the Steering Committee extends its most sincere thanks to:

- Mrs. Divinia Santiago who typed over 95% the manuscript over a three year period.
- Mr. Ali Kordbacheh, graphic arts teacher at Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI) for his tireless efforts in doing all layout work as well as tolerating the multitude of changes and revisions that were regularly presented to him.
- Ms. Betty (Bruyns) Muir, a perfectionist in the graphic arts field, without whose dedication, this book would not have been completed on time.
- Ms. Judy Willson and Mr. Tim Scanlon of Scantex Graphic Services who worked many overtime hours to complete this publication on time.

This book is entirely the work of volunteers, most of whom toiled long and hard to satisfy the high standards set out by Editor-In-Chief, Dr. Wesley Turner. The volunteers who contributed are listed below on a Chapter by Chapter basis. Sincerest thanks are extended to all volunteers by the Book's Steering Committee. All Chapters were edited by Dr. Turner.

Chapter One is a précis of Dora Wattie's book, *One Hundred Years A Retrospect*. It was written by Dr. Wesley Turner and reviewed by Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne, Douglas and June (Anderson) Musselwhite.

Chapter Two provides biographical sketches of nine distinguished alumni and describes two noteworthy legacies of Weston Collegiate (School Song and School Crests). Contributors to this chapter in alphabetical order are: Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne; Melba (Richardson) Burns; Helen (Jennett) Cooper; Dr. Donald Cowan, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; David Eadie; Robert Heath; Stewart Hill; Orlando Martini; Patricia McRae, Governor General's Office, Rideau Hall; Douglas and June (Anderson) Musselwhite; William Paris; Gary Seagrave; Professor Donald Smith, History Department; University of Calgary.

Chapter Three provides insight into school life at WCVS during the 1950s. Contributors to this chapter in alphabetical order are: Ken Koehler, Vicki (Bunda) Marshall, Orlando Martini, Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman, Douglas Musselwhite, Barbara (Cruise) Putnam, Donald Richardson, Gary Seagrave, Paul Seagrave, Diane (Parsons) Turner, Wesley Turner.

Chapter Four provides insight into school life at WCVS/WCI during the 1960s. Contributors to this chapter in alphabetical order are: Marjorie Campbell (in memories of Weston, Volume 1 – 1995, page 11), Marion (Maurer) Fuller, Rita Hanlon, Robert Heath (in Weston Collegiate Alumni Newsletter – Dec 1996), Jo-Ann Wallace-Phillips, Barabara (Cruise) Putnam, Larry Rogers, Antanas Sileika.

Chapter Five provides insight into school life at WCI during the 1970s. Contributors to this chapter in alphabetical order are: Kellie Dearman, Susan Hall, Robert Heath, Antanas Sileika, Jo-Ann Wallace-Phillips.

Chapter Six provides insight into school life at WCI during the 1980s. Contributors to this chapter are Kellie Dearman and Susan Hall.

Chapter Seven provides insight into school life at WCI during the 1990s. Contributors to this chapter are John Gardhouse and Tony Kerins.

Chapter Eight provides insight into school life at WCI during the new millennium, 2000 to 2007. Contributors to this chapter are Shire Brandi, Olga Ivleva and Sam Keen.

Chapter Nine consists of four separate sections, namely:

- Biographical sketches of Principals who served at WCVS/WCI during the period 1957-2007.
- A chronological listing of Vice Principals who served at WCVS/WCI during the period 1957-2007.
- An alphabetical listing of teachers who served at WCVS/WCI during the period 1957-2007. Several teachers are listed under both their maiden and married names.
- Alphabetical listing of secretarial and caretaker/maintenance staff

Contributors to the section on principals (in alphabetical order) are: Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne, Libert Castillo, Jim Christie, Carolyn Collyer, Angela Gleadall, Mrs. Harris Hill, Tony Kerins, Sharon List, Larry Rogers, Angela Petitti and Margaret (Worden) Snider.

The list of Vice-Principals was compiled by Orlando Martini from the Annual Commencement Programs (1957-2007) and reviewed by Graeme Thompson.

The list of teachers was also compiled by Orlando Martini from the annual commencement programs and reviewed by GraemeThompson, Douglas and June (Anderson) Musselwhite and Marisa Giorno.

The list of office administrators/head secretaries, secretarial staff and caretaker/maintenance staff was prepared by Marisa Giorno, the office secretarial staff and Ford Kippen.

Chapter Ten summarizes the highlights of Anniversary Reunions that were held in 1957 (100th Anniversary), 1982 (125th), 1987 (130th), 1997 (140th) and 2002 (145th). An appendix to Chapter Ten is an historical review of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation which was established by the Committee that organized the 125th Anniversary Reunion in 1982. Chapter Ten was prepared by Orlando Martini and reviewed/edited by Douglas and June (Anderson) Musselwhite.

Chapter Eleven documents many of the changes which the Town of Weston underwent during the period following the end of World War II (1945) until the present (2007). The principal author of this Chapter is John Hall, PEng, a 1945 graduate of WCVS and a life-long resident of the Town. During the preparation of this Chapter, John was ably assisted by Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne and Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman.

Chapter 1

The First One Hundred Years

What follows is a precis of the only history of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, *One Hundred Years. A Retrospect 1857-1957* by Dora Wattie.

"There is not one member of the Board of Education, one teacher, nor one pupil that has not contributed something to the school through the one hundred years of its existence." This sentence, early in the Preface to Dora Wattie's book, is as true for the 50 year period since 1957 as it was for the earlier years.

The story of Weston Collegiate begins with the story of the town of Weston. It was established because the combination of forests nearby and water power from the Humber River led to the creation of mills. The tiny settlement on the east side of the river gained a road connection to Toronto as well as to markets to the north, east and west. Through determined leadership of a few businessmen the town received improved road and rail transportation which helped its industry and commerce to grow.

Across the province, great changes were occurring in education with more and more elementary schools (Common or public schools) and secondary schools (Grammar Schools) being established, increased central control and more funding. A group of businessmen, led by William Tyrrell, undertook to establish a Grammar School in the village of Weston, but with a population of only 500, it was a struggle to raise the money. Construction started in 1857 and the school opened in 1858 with Rev. John B. Logan, a Presbyterian minister, as headmaster. The building probably contained one large schoolroom with other rooms to accommodate the headmaster and his family. The elected Board of Trustees (forerunner of the local Board of Education) struggled to raise enough money to cover the school's costs. Income came from fees paid by each pupil, from local County taxes, and from provincial grants. The first budget, for a school of 22 pupils, was only $525.

Over the next 14 years, the town's population grew to 1,000, five schools were opened as well as numerous churches and several industries. Weston became a busy industrial and commercial town, a market centre for farmers of the neighbourhood, with a promising future. Attendance at Weston Grammar School varied from 22 at the start to a high of 74 pupils, depending on the condition of the economy, competition from other schools, and on the interest of parents. Many of them would have preferred to see a more job-oriented education offered in Grammar Schools.

A new provincial Education Act of 1871 changed Grammar Schools into High Schools and the first headmaster of Weston High School (WHS) was again a Presbyterian minister, Rev. John Somerville, who only nine years before had been a pupil at that school. The building accommodated boarders and the headmaster's wife looked after those boys as well as her own children. This first building had a short life, for it burned to the ground on the night of March 25, 1875.

The fire destroyed not only the building but also all early school records. The Board, supported by a small group of concerned citizens, determined to rebuild. In the meantime, classes began on April 7 in the basement of the Methodist Church. The fire insurance policy provided only $2,000, not enough for the need, and so a fund-raising campaign was undertaken. Enough money was raised to rebuild the school on its old location where it reopened in January, 1876.

The second building lasted until 1913 and it saw both growth and decline. It began on a strong note with one of its most beloved and successful headmasters, George Wallace. He had a strong interest in his young pupils and insisted that "every pupil must have and give nothing but the best." Not a bad guide in any age. He died young, in 1886, and was remembered with great fondness by many graduates.

Weston High School's Second Building–Opened 1876, Closed 1913.
Pen and Ink Sketch by WHVS Alumna, Barbara Leewis

The number of pupils varied between 50 and 70 but after Wallace's death, the numbers declined and several headmasters stayed for only brief terms. Weston remained a little village (about 1,100 people in the 1890s) suffering a decline of its industries. The Board received a small grant each year from the Village Council, but its budget of just over $2,000 meant it could not hire highly qualified teachers or pay for sports and better equipment. Principals found they could not keep teachers for long because of the low salaries, which, indeed, sometimes went unpaid for months. In one case, a teacher taught for one day and then resigned. At other times, teachers accepted the salary and then demanded it be increased or they would go to higher paid positions elsewhere. There was even bickering among Board members about the principal's salary and his living accommodations in the school building. It and the grounds began to suffer from lack of repairs and maintenance.

It is not surprising that school spirit and discipline also deteriorated. The attitude of many townspeople towards the school was critical of both teachers and pupils and, on occasion, there were lawsuits over the use of insulting words. Nevertheless, Principal Tom Elliot (1890-1900)–an alumnus of WHS–and teachers struggled to provide a sound education and even sports activities for the students. Some of the graduates went on to distinguished careers in education, government and the professions. There was sufficient pride in the school that some ex-pupils organized a reunion for August 29, 1900. It was a great success and an Ex-Pupils' Association was formed.

The school seemed at its lowest point by January 1, 1901 when only 14 pupils arrived on opening day to find that the former teaching staff had been replaced. However, the new appointees–two young women and one young man–were qualified teachers with university degrees and they began the transformation of WHS. They were ambitious to try new ideas and enthusiastic about teaching. Miss Hawkins, for example, who taught French, even took time off without pay to study in France. She was also active in extra-curricular activities and served as acting principal at least twice. In addition, repairs were made to the building, the chickens that the caretaker was raising in the basement were removed and the broken down fence around the yard was rebuilt. Part of the money for the repairs and equipment was raised by student activities.

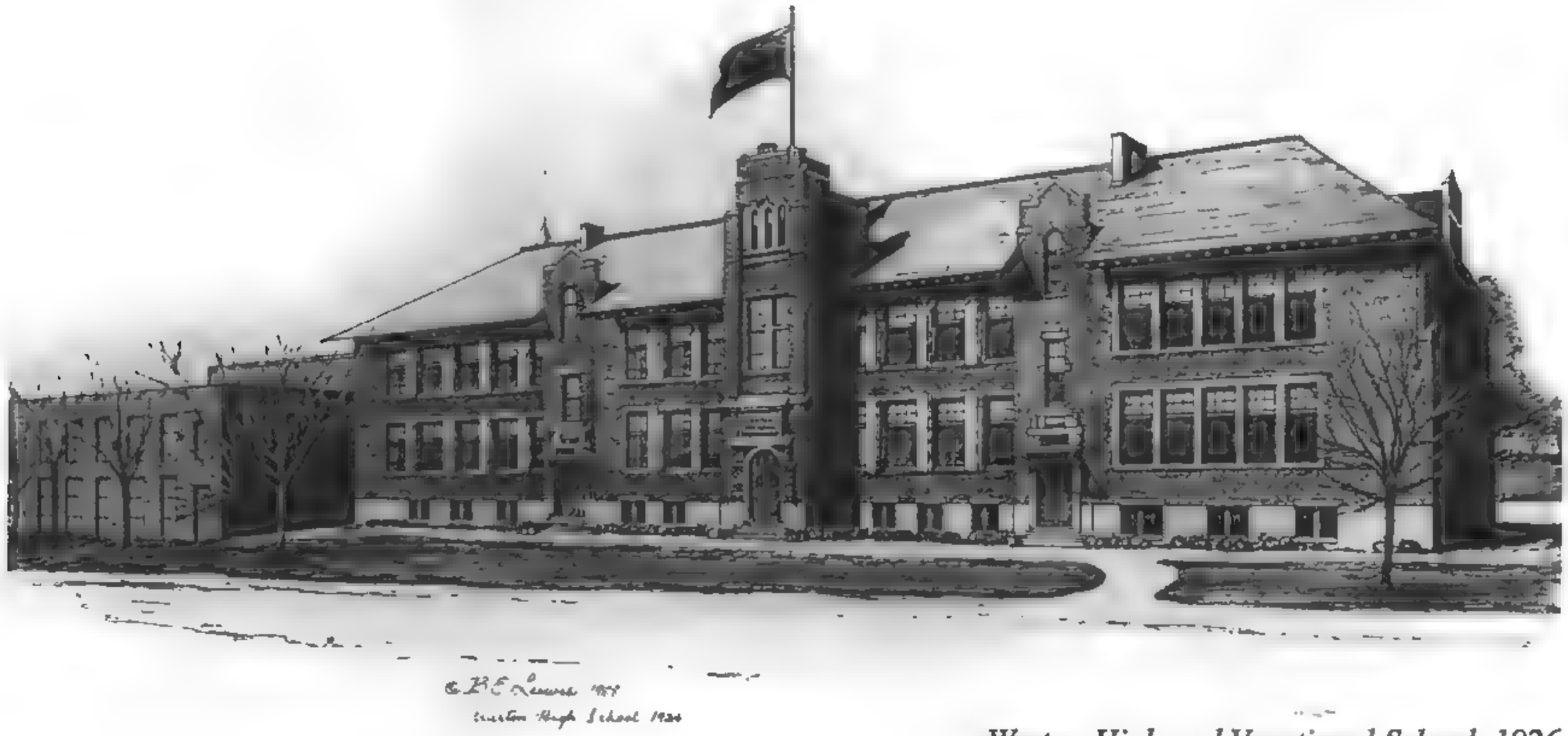
The Ex-Pupils' Association organized a Golden Anniversary (50 years) for August 1907. By then WHS was growing (60 pupils) and morale was improving. Weston, too, was increasing in population and prosperity. More and more staff and students complained of the inadequacies of the building and equipment. For example, the only water supply was drawn from wells in buckets, there was no auditorium or cafeteria, and very little scientific equipment. In 1909 WHS had four teachers and 115 pupils, but a pupil writing in 1910, complained, when strangers come to town we are ashamed to show them the dilapidated building which we now use as our high school.

Well aware of the problems, the High School Board during 1910 and 1911 searched for property that it could afford to buy and sought public support to borrow money. Four desirable properties were too expensive, but a fifth was found–Mr. Eagle's strawberry patch on William Street–and it was purchased for $6,000. The cornerstone of the new building was laid in September 1912 and in October of the following year, four teachers and 95 pupils moved in. The old school building was sold and deteriorated until it was taken down in 1920.

Weston High School's Third Building–Opened 1913.
Pen and Ink Sketch by WHVS Alumna, Barbara Leewis

The new school had six classrooms, an office, a laboratory and a gymnasium-auditorium. Alexander Pearson served as Principal from 1914 to 1936 by which year the school had 933 pupils, 34 teachers and a secretary. They enjoyed 28 classrooms, five shops, a library, a gym on the third floor and one on the first floor, and a cafeteria in the basement. In part, this growth reflected the rapid expansion of the population and industries of Weston. In 1915, the village became a town and soon large industries, such as the Moffat Stove Company and Canada Cycle and Motor, opened factories that attracted hundreds of workers. But attendance at the High School grew only slowly until after 1921.

Even more important than town growth was the introduction of vocational education. Many people were indifferent or even antagonistic towards high school education because it seemed to cater to predominantly wealthy people as it prepared pupils for university entrance. Dr. E.F. Burton set out to change the nature of secondary education in Weston and the public's attitude towards it. He was elected to the Board of Education in 1916 and for the next five years campaigned to have technical, commercial and other types of education introduced into Weston High. There was opposition mainly on the grounds of the cost of hiring teachers and buying equipment. Dr. Burton sat on committees, spoke at meetings, and wrote articles for the Weston newspaper, the Times and Guide. Even though he had the support of the Ontario Ministry of Education, it took a long and strenuous campaign to obtain the introduction of the first vocational class in 1921, and the first commercial in 1922.



Weston High and Vocational School–1926
Pen and Ink Sketch by WHVS Alumna, Barbara Leewis

Attendance leaped ahead and soon required additions to the school building. Classrooms for academic courses were added and a new wing for the Vocational School. By 1926, Weston had the third largest high school outside of Toronto … and the only composite school in York County. The public's attitude seemed to have changed from skepticism to pride in the school. One result of adding the vocational school was the increased number of pupils coming from a distance. They had to eat lunch at school and that

required a cafeteria. The Board did not think it could afford more expense, and so the impetus fell upon the teachers. They organized a cafeteria committee and began to sell shares to raise money. As well, the woodworking and metal shop boys got to work converting part of the basement into a kitchen and dining room. Within a few months, the school had its cafeteria. The school population continued to grow and there was talk of expansion, but the Great Depression, competition from new schools, and the Second World War, all delayed further additions.

By the winter of 1930-31, the depression had hit Weston and the Board was faced with the serious problem of rising school costs and declining revenues. Various efforts were made to save money, but the most threatening one for the school was the general public demand to reduce teachers' salaries. Dr. F.D. Cruickshank, chairman of the Board, tried to lessen the impact for Weston's High and Vocational teachers, pointing out that their average salary of $2,470 was already below the provincial average of $2,740, that the teachers had had no increment the previous year, and that the principal and many of the teachers had years of teaching experience. Other town employees saw their salaries cut, and the teachers offered to accept a 5% reduction. It was not enough, for the Board continued to come under pressure from the County Council and the public to cut costs even more. In 1932, the teachers were told that their reduced salaries would be cut a further 16%. Relations between the teachers and the Board had reached their nadir.

Nevertheless, schooling went on with remarkably little disruption for the pupils. They did well in examinations, they put on plays and continued to enjoy athletics. They and their teachers put up with serious overcrowding as by 1935 there were 1083 pupils in a school designed for 750. Of course, there was also the discouraging sight that many of the school's graduates were walking the streets looking for jobs.

The depression began to ease in Weston in 1935 and the following year, Ernest H. G. Worden took over as Principal. He had a distinguished record both in teaching and in military service. After graduating from McMaster University and teaching briefly, he went overseas in 1916. He was wounded, but returned to fighting and was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he returned to teaching and came to Weston High School in 1926 to teach Science. He took part in many other activities, such as coaching rugby and hockey and helping with the Mouth Organ Band and the founding of the school yearbook, the *Conning Tower*.

As a teacher he had experienced the bitterness of salary reductions during the harsh years of the depression. Now, as principal with finances improving, he was able to introduce changes to make running the school more efficient and to enhance students' experiences. The library had also been the principal's office, a bad arrangement for all concerned. This was changed with a separate room for the principal and his secretary. Publication of the *Conning Tower* ceased from 1932 to 1936, but resumed in 1937. Field Day was revived in 1939 and a Student Council was instituted. In that same year, the school obtained higher status by being designated a collegiate: Weston Collegiate and Vocational School. Mr. Worden showed great interest in his students, emphasized the importance of co-operation, expressed great pride in the school, and loyally supported his teachers. No wonder he won the respect of students and staff.

World War II raised new challenges for the school. A Girls' Red Cross Corps was organized in 1939 and a few boys enlisted, but with the Nazi conquests of 1940, much more was needed. To create the badly needed skilled workforce for war industries, a youth training program was created, popularly known as the War Emergency Classes. Weston, with its numerous big industries, was an ideal location and the school was chosen to be one of the pilots of this scheme. Summer school was held and during the rest of the year, after regular vocational classes finished, Emergency Classes took over working all night with an hour's break so that the maintenance staff could clean. During the second summer Girls' Emergency Classes were added, the only ones in Canada. where the girls learned aircraft wiring and sheet-metal work. Staff and students contributed to the war effort in many other ways e.g. Red Cross work, Savings and Victory Loan Campaigns, and farm and factory work. Frequently, they heard about boys who had joined up losing their lives or being captured or missing. The worst week was in November 1944, when eight WCVS boys were reported killed, missing, or wounded. Others gained renown and some won honours. A Memorial Plaque in the school lists the names of those who died in both World Wars.

Attendance continued to grow and plans were made to expand the building. Work began in 1952 and, after 18 months, the new wing opened. It provided a gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria, music room, a great square entrance which we were learning to call a foyer, and new classrooms. As well, improvements were made to the walls, floors, and lights of the old building. The surrounding population continued to grow and so did school attendance: 1,200 in 1952, over 1,300 in 1954, almost 1,500 in 1955, and 1,532 in 1957. However, new schools in Etobicoke and Vaughan would lessen these numbers in the years following.

Before 1900 there was little student enterprise outside of the classroom, but that changed in the new century. A Literary Society had previously existed, but then died out; in 1902 it was revived and became the parent to most student activities except athletics. These started slowly with Friday afternoon meetings that included readings, speeches, debates, and a concert once a year. They soon expanded. The main social events organized by the Literary Society were the Sleigh Ride, the Christmas Concert and the At-Home Dance.

The Sleigh Ride was the most universally popular event at the school between 1903 and 1911. No wonder because the entire school–pupils, teachers, and maybe even Board members–participated. Originally held on a Saturday, it soon became a whole day event. All of the school would pack into the sleighs donated by local farmers, ride off at a furious pace to a hall or rink in a nearby community, eat lunch, skate, eat a hearty supper, then perhaps enjoy tobogganing, and finally ride home, singing. From 1916 the Society also organized a Hallowe'en and a Christmas party.

It is likely that the Grammar School had some form of entertainment at the Christmas season, but the record is incomplete until the 1890s. When the Literary Society was revived, the annual concert became a regular and important event for the school. Although the pupils and teachers practiced in the school, they had to trudge into town where the concerts were staged in the auditorium of the Town Hall. Its facilities for dramatic performances, musical numbers, and valedictory speeches were primitive, for example, the hand-painted curtain regularly stuck at least once during each evening. The new school of 1913 at last had an auditorium (combined with the gymnasium).

The money raised by the Literary Society from the Annual Concert was regularly spent on school equipment. For instance, in the 1890s this money bought the first microscope and then blinds. In the following century, the money bought athletic equipment, a piano, and in 1927 provided over $700 towards the purchase of steel lockers for the boys' dressing room and the cafeteria.

The Commencement component of the Annual Concert became increasingly a major part and gradually more separate. From 1918, a member of the Board chaired each night and the first of the two (on Thursday) featured little entertainment, but concentrated on presentation of certificates and a scholarship. On Friday night, after a brief opening speech, the rest of the evening had a wide variety of entertainments. This trend continued and became even more marked with the new gymnasium-auditorium in 1923. In 1927 Commencement night and Drama night were separated completely. From 1927 to 1956 there was little change in the Commencement program, except that the numbers of certificates and prizes increased.

The oldest and most important dance is the AT-HOME. The first was organized in 1906 with a donation of $13 from the Board, but its inauguration was not auspicious. Since lighting in the school was very poor the organizers were given permission to run a line in from the street lighting. All went well with the first part of the program but when the dancing started, the power line was cut. Apparently, someone disapproved of dancing! The next one was not held until 1910 and it seems to have been a great success with some 200 pupils and ex-pupils. Still, the At-Home did not become a regular event, probably because many influential people did not approve of dancing. This included the principal, Mr. Pearson, but he gradually accepted the changing times. From 1920 dancing was allowed at the Hallowe'en party, then other dances were introduced and, finally, in 1929, the Literary Society convinced Mr. Pearson to allow an At-Home. Many of its lasting characteristics were then established e.g., formal dress, the receiving line, decorations and a good orchestra.

With the advent of the Vocational School, those students formed their own Literary Society that undertook much the same activities as the High School Society. Two or three times a year, they held combined meetings. Early in the 1930s the two societies were replaced by the Senior and Junior Literary Society that lasted until the end of the 1936-37 school year. Students needed an executive to coordinate extra-curricular activities and, adopting a trend found in other schools, a Student Council was formed in 1939. The Council has continued ever since with some changes in the way the representatives were chosen. In 1949, for the first time, there was an election campaign for President and Vice-President. Four nominees for the presidency delivered campaign speeches announcing their platforms. Then one of the candidates withdrew and urged his supporters to back another one and he was elected. The election marked a milestone, for Norman Carroll was the first president from the Vocational department. In 1952, another milestone was the first election of a girl, Sheila Semple, to the office.

The number of social functions multiplied considerably. A typical year's social functions included the Rugby Dance, Sadie Hawkin's Dance, The Christmas Dance, the Junior Prom in January, the annual At-Home in February, and the Graduation Dinner and Dance in May. There were also frequent "Coke" dances (called Tea Dances from 1942-49) on Friday afternoon.

"From the 1927-1928 year the annual play has been one of the most important extra-curricular activities." The dramatic productions have been of three types: three act plays, three one act plays, or a combination of short plays with musical numbers. All of these have enriched the school experience of the pupils taking part whether acting, playing music, selling tickets, or working on sets, costumes, or lighting. Many teachers have been involved, not only in directing but also in building flats, directing lighting and sound effects, managing the budget, and supervising make-up. In fact, Dora Wattie by 1957 had performed that last task for 22 years.

Music was performed at the school from early in the 20th century. Piano and violin solos and choruses and glee clubs provided entertainment at commencements. However, there was a desire for an orchestra and one, finally, was organized by W.H. Orr for the 1924 commencement. Within three years, the orchestra was performing at opening exercises on Friday morning, at Commencement and Drama Night and on other occasions. After Mr. Orr left in 1927, the orchestra survived only a further two years. Other music groups replaced it, namely, a Mouth Organ Band of seven boys (occasionally accompanied by whistling by Ernie Worden), a Glee Club and the Astral Male Quartette. The orchestra was revived when Mr. Leslie Bell joined the staff in 1932 and continued after he left in 1934. All music programs received a great stimulus from the appointment of Bruce Metcalfe as Supervisor of Music for Weston Schools. The orchestra grew quickly and the Glee Club that had lapsed in 1931 was revived. He organized a Girls' Choir and it made a great impression in its first year for its rendition of *Three Blind Mice* in Latin. The new wing in 1953 provided a music room with a collection of fine instruments and the auditorium nearby with a grand piano and organ. Mr. Metcalfe then gave all his time to the secondary school. When he resigned in 1956, Joseph Dvorak, a man of great musical ability and heritage, replaced him. The school has intermittently had a school band.

The school yearbook has its origins in handwritten sheets of an exercise book produced about 1897 by J.C.Boylen. Named *The Plain Dealer*, it was passed from pupil to pupil. The next three magazines were souvenir editions of a school paper that was edited for and read at the meetings of the Literary Society, (1905). Their titles were *The Budget* (1905 or 1906), *The Weston High School Folio* (1909) which featured eight pages of advertisements and sold for 10 cents, and the *Weston High School Chronicle* (1918). After a decade long hiatus, the first edition of the *Conning Tower* was published in the spring of 1927. It ceased publication, owing to the depression, from 1932 until 1936, and ceased again in 1941, owing to the war. It took until 1949 to revive it and since then it has become predominantly a record of student activities with one of the big changes being increased use of photographs.

The list of prizes and scholarships won by Weston pupils is long and impressive. (See pages 94-99 and 135-139 of Dora Wattie's book). Their history begins in 1860 when the principal, Mr. Logan, gave the first prizes. He contributed until 1865, but other prizes were also being awarded. The increase began in 1910 with the creation of the Carter Scholarships and 13 years later with the Wilson Prizes. These awards have come from individuals, the Board, local industry, industrial organizations, service clubs, other organizations, and the Student Council of 1957.

Student clubs have come and gone, giving students opportunities to work on a hobby or learn a new one. One of the oldest is the Modern Language Club, first organized in 1937. While students and teachers interested in photography often worked together and provided the *Conning Tower* with pictures, the

first Camera Club lasted only one year, 1938-1939. It was revived in 1952 and in 1956-57 won manyprizes in the Toronto District High School Competition. Other clubs organized in the 1950s were the United Nations Club and the Inter-School Christian Fellowship of Weston.

The Cadet Corps was organized in 1925-26, declined during the depression years, but was revived in 1940. Its three important facets were weekly training parades, summer camps and the rifle teams. Many teachers have been involved in these different activities. An annual inspection was held in the spring. Some cadets have distinguished themselves and gone on to cadet camps in other parts of Canada.

Athletics was not recognized as a necessary part of education in Canada until about 1900, but before that there was some activity at the Grammar and the High School. Cricket was played about 1868 and soon afterwards, baseball in the fall and spring and shinny in the winter. These activities and the first attempts to form lacrosse and soccer teams were the result of student efforts, unsupervised and without financial help from the school. This changed early in the next century with the revival of school spirit when soccer and hockey teams were formed and the School Board began to spend money on athletics. The first Field Day was held in 1907 and has been repeated almost every year since. It has long featured such sports as pole-vaulting, shot put, relays, jumps and races. The athletic program took a giant step forward with the addition of a proper gymnasium in 1923 and a very fine gym team has been developed. Some of the major team sports have been rugby, begun in 1924, hockey, from 1926, and basketball, from 1925. Girls' sports were limited in the 19th century to physical exercise and basketball. By the 1930s they had expanded to include volleyball, deck tennis, ping-pong, and relays. Other sports added later were badminton and archery. Although originally cheerleaders were boys, by 1947 at least, the girls had taken over. Team sports also included interform rivalry that began in the 1930s.

In the conclusion to her history of the school, Miss Wattie wrote about vice-principals, in particular, C. Wesley Christie, and about the St. John's Course, Home Economics, the library, the health room, vocational guidance, night school (dating from 1918), the annual exhibition, parents' night (begun in 1936), the maintenance staff, and the Board of Education.

This well-written and informative book concludes with the following numbered Appendices: I Centenary Committee, Board of Education and Advisory Vocational Committee, Staff of the WCVS; II Scholarships and Prizes; III Editors and Advertising Managers of School Magazines; IV Presidents of Literary Society and Student Council; V Principals and Assistants; and VI Trustees High School Board, Board of Education Advisory Vocational Committee.

Chapter 2

Some Distinguished Alumni and Noteworthy Legacies

During the first 100 years or so if its existence, Weston Collegiate graduated many distinguished alumnae/alumni but to name them all would be an almost impossible task. Accordingly, this chapter purports only to identify a few who achieved national and/or international acclaim in their chosen field of endeavour. The alumni selected are:

Name		Period at Weston High School
Sir James Lougheed	(1854-1925)	1870s
Mr. Willis Chipman	(1855-1929)	1870s
Dr. Joseph Burr Tyrrell	(1858-1957)	1870s
Dr. Vera Peters	(1911-1993)	1923 - 1928
Mr. William Paris	(1919 -)	1934 - 1938
Mr. Esmond Butler	(1922 -1989)	1936 - 1941
Mr. Elwy Yost	(1925 -)	1938 - 1943
Mr. David Eadie	(1924 -)	1937 - 1942
Ms. Carole (Goss) Taylor	(1946 -)	1959 - 1964

Brief biographical sketches of the foregoing alumni follow, together with a few references where further information about each can be obtained. This chapter concludes with information on School Crests and a School Song that emerged during the first 100 years of Weston high School (WHS) and Weston Collegiate and Vocational School (WCVS).

Sir James Lougheed – KCMG, PC, KC (1854-1925)

James Alexander Lougheed was born in Brampton, Ontario on September 1, 1854. His family was of Protestant Irish descent (mother born in Ireland, father in Upper Canada). After graduating from Weston High School (WHS) in 1875, Lougheed enrolled at Osgoode Law School and articled with the Toronto firm of Beatty Hamilton & Cassel. He practiced law briefly in Toronto following his graduation in 1881 and in 1882 moved to Winnipeg with his brother Sam. The brothers followed construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) westward and in the late summer of 1883 reached Fort Calgary ahead of the "rails".

On September 16, 1884, thirty-year old James Lougheed married Isabella Clarke Hardisty in Calgary's Methodist Church. The *Calgary Herald* describes Isabella as a true daughter of the Canadian West who was born in 1861 in the frontier environment of Fort Resolution, a Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) trading post. Her ancestry was English and Native Indian on both her mother's and father's side. Isabella's uncle, Richard Charles Hardisty was a high ranking HBC official who later became a Canadian Senator. Her aunt (father's sister) was married to Donald Alexander Smith (later Lord Strathcona) who drove the ceremonial "last spike" to mark the completion of the CPR from coast to coast. The Lougheeds had six children, four sons and two daughters, born between 1895 and 1904. Their third child, Edgar Donald Lougheed was the father of Alberta's former premier, Peter Lougheed.

When Senator Hardisty died in 1889, James Lougheed was appointed to replace his wife's uncle and thus began a political career that spanned over 35 years (1889-1925).

During the late 1880s and throughout the 1890s, James Lougheed's legal practice prospered thanks in no small measure to the fact that his client list included the CPR, the Bank of Montreal and the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1897, James Lougheed recruited R.B. Bennett, a young lawyer from New Brunswick as a junior partner and Bennett later served as Prime Minister of Canada during the "Hungry Thirties". In 1905, Senator Lougheed succeeded Sir Mackenzie Bowell as leader of the opposition in the Canadian Senate and in that capacity attended the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. He was knighted by King George V in 1916 and so far as can be reasonably determined, he is the only WHS alumnus to be knighted by a British monarch.

The *Calgary Herald* (July 8, 1950 issue) reported that the death of Sir James Lougheed on November 2, 1925 was widely mourned throughout the length and breadth of Canada and with his passing, Calgary lost one of her favourite adopted sons. As Conservative leader of the Senate, Sir James was one of the most popular men in his party and it was often said of him that had he been in the Commons instead of the Senate, he would have become Prime Minister.

In his book, *The Calgary Story* (University of Calgary Press), Donald Smith devoted a complete chapter to the Life of Sir James Lougheed.

Willis Chipman, BEng, OLS, DLS, PEng (1855-1929)

Willis Chipman is unquestionably one of Weston Collegiate's most distinguished alumni. A civil engineer and land surveyor by training, he was widely respected in both Canada and the United States for his pioneering work in the fields of water supply and sewage treatment. Because of the work of Chipman, thousands of Canadians and new Canadians of the 19th and 20th centuries enjoyed safe drinking water that was free of such classical waterborne diseases as dysentery, cholera, typhoid and paratyphoid. Mundane as water and sewage treatment might appear to the general public, it should be appreciated that very few things are more important to a nation's health than an abundant supply of safe drinking water.

Willis Chipman was born in Elgin, Ontario, on October 1, 1855. He is a graduate of Athens (Ontario) Public School, Weston High School and McGill University (1876, Civil and Mechanical Engineering with Honours). Following graduation from McGill, he first worked as a high school mathematics teacher in Napanee and soon afterwards joined the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC).

After leaving the GSC he worked as the assistant engineer during the construction of an early Toronto waterworks system and then articled under land surveyors where he earned his commission both as a Dominion Land Surveyor (DLS) and an Ontario Land Surveyor (OLS) in 1881. In the mid 1880s, Willis Chipman played a pivotal role in the formation of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors and served as its first secretary treasurer; in 1895 he was elected Vice?President and in 1896, President.

In November 1881, Willis Chipman established a private practice in Brockville Ontario as a Land Surveyor and Consulting Civil Engineer. The business prospered and in 1894, the office was moved to Toronto. During his long career which spanned nearly 50 years, Willis Chipman prepared design reports and offered consulting engineering services for 90 water supply and sewage treatment projects that extended from Halifax NS to Victoria BC. Seven of these projects were in Atlantic Canada, two in Quebec, fifty-four in Ontario and twenty-seven in Canada's four western provinces. This list of projects represents a formidable accomplishment given the size of Canada and recognizing that all of the projects were undertaken long before the days of commercial air travel.

With justification, Willis Chipman has been called Canada's first environmental engineering consultant. In his constant quest for new knowledge in the fields of water supply and sewage treatment, he visited the New England States in 1885, Denver, Seattle and San Francisco in 1891 as well as England and Scotland in 1900. During the same era, he published a classical paper in the Proceedings of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (CSCE) entitled *The Separate System of Sewerage and Storm Water Drainage* which is the basis of present-day practice for sewer design for urban areas. This earned him the title of originator of the separate system for sanitary and storm sewers in Canada.

Over the years, Willis Chipman provided countless hours of free volunteer service to many learned technical and professional societies including:

- The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers (later the Engineering Institute of Canada) where he served three terms on Council after its founding in 1887
- The Association of Public Health Officers of Ontario. He served as President in 1893.
- The Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
- The Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. He was instrumental in its founding in 1922 and served as its second President in 1923.

In the Spring of 2003, the Consulting Engineers of Ontario (CEO), a non-profit industry association, created the Willis Chipman Awards to recognize the knowledge, skill and expertise of consulting engineering firms and to showcase the importance of engineering projects to the economic, social and environmental well-being of Ontario.

Willis Chipman died on January 3, 1929 and was buried in a family plot in Brockville.[1]

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[1] Orlando Martini obtained all data presented about Willis Chipman from a Biography Committee Report of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors prepared by Col. A.J. Van Nostrand.

Dr. Joseph Burr Tyrrell BA, MA, LLD (Hon) (1858-1957)

Joseph Tyrrell was born on November 1, 1858 in Weston and the following year the family moved to their new home which still stands on the northeast corner of King St. and Rosemount Ave. After completing his primary schooling , he studied at Weston Grammar School, Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto (1876-1880). While at the U of T, he won several scholarships for proficiency in mathematics, science, languages and stood at the top of his graduating class. As a member of the solid gold watch chain which he proudly wore for the rest of his life.

From 1881, until 1899, Joseph Tyrrell worked for the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) exploring and mapping vast tracts of the western provinces and the Canadian Arctic. He also prospected for metals and minerals, collected fossils, plants etc. and his discoveries included amber deposits in northwestern Manitoba, the tar sands in Alberta as well as coal and dinosaur remains near Drumheller Alberta. While carrying out his work, Joseph Tyrrell discovered and named many lakes and rivers including Carey Lake (his wife's maiden name) and Selwyn Lake after Dr. Selwyn, Director of the GSC. He is also credited with naming Dawson City, Yukon Territory after Dr. George Dawson of the GSC during the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898.

In 1894 Joseph Tyrrell married Edith Carey of St. John, NB. They had three children, Mary, George and Thomas; both sons saw active service in World War II. George operated the family's apple farm before and after the war while Thomas climbed the civil service ladder to become Ontario's Deputy Minister of Planning and Development. Mrs. Tyrrell passed away in 1945.

After leaving the GSC in 1899, Joseph Tyrrell established a mining and geological consulting firm in the Yukon, staked a claim and mined for gold. He sold the business and the claim in 1905, and returned to Toronto where he worked two years for Mackenzie Mann, a firm of railway contractors. In 1907, Tyrrell re-established himself as a private mining and geological consultant and in the succeeding three years explored northwestern Ontario and negotiated the extension of the Provincial boundary to Hudson Bay. From 1910 to 1925 he served as the Canadian representative of the Anglo-French Mining and Exploration Co. and during that period discovered gold and silver deposits near Cobalt and gold in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. After the Kirkland Lake mine came into production, Tyrrell became its Managing Director and later its President. He remained its President until 1955 and on the Board of Directors until his death in 1957.

Joseph Tyrrell went into semi-retirement in 1928 and started growing apples at his Maplewood Farm in the Agincourt area of Scarborough. By 1935 he was selling apples across Canada as well as exporting some to the United States, Great Britain and South Africa.

It should be stressed that Tyrrell achieved fame and fortune in his lifetime in spite of a number of disabilities. As a child he suffered with tuberculosis and pneumonia; for most of his life he struggled with poor eye sight and for half of his life he was plagued with deafness.

During his lifetime, Joseph Tyrrell authored and/or edited over 300 scientific papers and earned many more honours than can be listed here. Some of the more noteworthy include:

- Joseph Street in Weston bears his name while Grattan and Robert Streets are named after his brothers.
- 1896, the Back Award of England's Royal Geographic Society for his expeditions to the barren lands of Canada
- 1916, the Murchison Medal of the Royal Geological Society of London (England)
- 1933, Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Toronto
- 1933, Ravelle Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Canada
- 1940, Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Queens University, Kingston, Ont.
- 1947, The Wallaston Palladium Medal, highest award of England's Royal Geological Society
- The Daly gold medal of the American Geological Society
- 1953, The Engineer's Medal, the highest award of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario.

Even after his death, Dr. Tyrrell continued to receive honours for his many illustrious accomplishments, for example:

- 1971, A Toronto school was named the J. B. Tyrrell Senior Public School
- 1985, The Gold Medal of Canada's Royal Society was re-named the Tyrrell Medal
- 1985, The Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta became the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology
- In 1983, on the 100th anniversary, The National Film Board produced a vignette on Joseph Tyrrell's discovery of the largest deposit of dinosaur bones near Drumheller, Alberta
- The Canadian Government named a mountain and lake after Joseph Tyrrell
- Canada Post (in the late 1980s) issued a series of stamps honouring early explorers of Canada including J. B. Tyrrell. A page of these stamps was framed and presented to the School by Dr. Barry Vail who was a student at Weston Collegiate and Vocational School in the early 1950s and who served on the Executive of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (1988-93). The stamps can be seen in the School's Hall of Memories.

Throughout his lifetime Dr. Tyrrell remained proud of his High School where he attended numerous Commencement Ceremonies and presented the two scholarships which he established, namely:

- The William Tyrrell Scholarship named after his father who played a pivotal role in the establishment of Weston Grammar School in 1857 to encourage students to further their post high school education, in mining sciences and/or agriculture
- The Joseph Burr Tyrrell Scholarship is awarded animally for general proficiency in Grade 13 to a student who is entering a university course in Engineering, Forestry and/or Agriculture

Joseph Tyrrell was scheduled to be a guest speaker at Weston Collegiate's Centennial Celebrations in October 1957. Unfortunately, he passed away on August 26th, 1957, just two months before his 99th birthday. He is unquestionably one of the School's most distinguished alumni.

THE ORDER OF CANADA

The Order of Canada was established on July 1, 1967 as the centerpiece of our Country's system of honours (which also includes the Order of Military Merit and Decorations for Bravery). The Latin motto of the Order is Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam (They desire a better country).

The three levels of membership in the order, Companion (CC), Officer (OC) and Member (CM) are designed to embrace a wide variety of fields of endeavour such as agriculture, medicine, science and philanthropy. Appointments to the Companion level are made for outstanding achievement and merit of the highest degree, especially for service to Canada or to humanity at large; Officer appointments are made for achievement of a high degree while Member appointments are made for distinguished service in a particular locality, group or field of activity.

In the forty years since its inception, Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI) has learned that six of its alumni have been invested in the Order of Canada by the Governor General of the day. Others may have received the honour but such eventualities have not been reported to the School. Biographical sketches of WCI's Order of Canada recipients are presented below in chronological order.

M. Vera Peters OC, MD, FRCP(C), DSc(Hon), LLD(Hon)

Mildred Vera Peters (always known as Vera) was born in April 1911 on a dairy farm located to the northwest of Thistletown, Ontario. She received her elementary education at Highfield, a one-room school on the corner of what is now Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27. Next, she attended Weston High School (WHS) and graduated in 1928 at the age of 17. Unfortunately, school records are very sparse for that period but Mrs. Dorothy (Moody) King who attended both Highfield and Weston High School at the same time as Vera has provided a picture of her as "a very intelligent, lovely and lively person" who was involved in several of WHS's extracurricular activities. The 1928 *Conning Tower* lists her as being in grade 13 (Form V) and coming from the "almost extinct hamlet of Smithfield" (corner of Albion Road and Martin Grove Road). The 1929 *Conning Tower* acknowledges that she was at "Med School".

For entry into medicine, a student had to be 18 years of age. Vera was 17 and therefore enrolled at the University of Toronto in Mathematics and Physics. After several weeks she asked for a transfer to the Faculty of Medicine. She was not asked her age, the transfer took place and she never looked back. She graduated with her MD in 1934 and after internship began training at the Ontario Radiotherapy Institute at the Toronto General Hospital. She subsequently became a full staff member as a radiotherapist and a member of the U of T Faculty. In 1958, when the Princess Margaret Hospital opened, she transferred with her colleagues to that institution. It was in these two hospitals that Peters did all her patient care, teaching and research. She retired in 1976.

Few individuals play a major role in dramatically changing the treatment of a disease but Dr. Vera Peters was highly influential in laying the foundation for changing the management of not one but two diseases! Published in 1950, her groundbreaking studies of patients with Hodgkin's disease, previously thought to be incurable, led to the wide acceptance of high dose radiation treatment as a cure for a large proportion of patients in the early stages of the disease. Her life-long work in patients with breast cancer was extremely important in establishing that radical surgery, often disfiguring, could be replaced with equally good

results by limited, breast-conserving surgery followed by radiation. Peters was a role model in the way she dealt with each individual patient. She practiced Patient-centered medicine before the term was coined. As a successfully married physician with children she was an outstanding role model for women entering the medical profession.

Honours were heaped upon Vera. She received honourary Fellowships and Memberships in a variety of organizations, honourary degrees from York and Queen's Universities and medals of great distinction from organizations in France and the U.S.A. In 1975 she became a Member of the Order of Canada (CM) and in 1977 was elevated to the rank of Officer in the Order (OC). Vera Peters died in 1993 at the age of 82.

Esmond Butler, BA, OC

Esmond Butler was born in Wawanesa, Manitoba (near Brandon) in 1922 and was a student at Weston Collegiate from 1936 until 1941. During his youth, Esmond's father was the pastor of St. Philip's Anglican Church in Etobicoke. A popular student, Esmond played on both the School's Junior and Senior football teams and was elected President of the Students' Council in his graduating year (1940-41). Following graduation, he joined the Canadian Navy and served in the signals corp on HMCS Stormont in both the Pacific and North Atlantic theatres. When the Stormont was badly damaged by enemy bombs near Murmansk, Russia, Esmond narrowly escaped with his life. He subsequently served as a gunner on the destroyer HMCS Algonquin.

When World War II ended in 1945, Esmond Butler returned to Canada and enrolled in the political science program at Trinity College, University of Toronto where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948. He then undertook post-graduate studies at the University of Geneva in Switzerland that focused on international Affairs. Towards the end of 1952, Esmond returned to Canada and for a year worked for the Department of Trade and Commerce. He subsequently joined the Department of Health and Welfare for a brief period and in 1954 was appointed assistant secretary to Vincent Massey, Canada's first, native-born Governor General.

In March 1957, Queen Elizabeth II made her second tour of Canada and all plans for that tour were meticulously handled by Esmond Butler. So impressed was the Queen with his work that she asked that he be transferred to England to work with her press secretary, Commander Colville. After serving the Queen for eighteen months as assistant press secretary, Esmond Butler returned to Canada where he assumed the role of secretary to the newly-appointed Governor General, George Vanier in 1959.

In total, Esmond Butler served the five Governors General listed below (including their terms in office)

Vincent Massey	1954-1959
Georges Vanier	1959-1967
Roland Michener	1967-1974
Jules Leger	1974-1979
Ed Schreyer	1979-1984

At the conclusion of Ed Schreyer's term as Governor General in 1984, Esmond Butler was appointed Canada's Ambassador to Morocco where he remained until his retirement in 1987.

During his career, Esmond Butler received many awards and accolades including:

- He was appointed Secretary General of the Order of Canada in 1967 when the Order was established and was invested as an Officer of the Order in 1989.
- He was appointed Secretary General of the Order of Military Merit in 1973.
- In 1977, he received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Esmond Butler assed away in December 1989, an ALS (Amyotrophic lateral Sclerosis) victim.

William P. Paris CM

Upon graduating from Weston High and Vocational School (WHVS) in 1938, Bill Paris was employed by the Bank of Montreal, Main and John St. branch, Weston and later at the Bank's Royce Avenue branch in Toronto. Joining the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Reserve army in 1940, he attained the rank of Sergeant and in 1941 accepted a lateral transfer to the Royal Canadian Air Force. His initial pilot training in Canada occurred that year at Mount Hope, near Hamilton and at Camp Borden, continuing in England and Wales until early 1942. He emerged as a Spitfire pilot and served in three Royal Air Force fighter squadrons in England and North Africa, His experience included "Operation Torch", the invasion of North Africa in November of 1942.

After completing his tour of operational flying in Africa by mid 1943, Bill was posted to a Royal Air Force Maintenance Unit in Algiers where he flight tested reconstructed fighter aircraft until 1944. He returned to Canada then to become an RCAF flight instructor, continuing this activity until honourably discharged with the rank of Flight Lieutenant in 1945.

For seven years following, Bill worked in the private sector, much of the time providing part-time flying instruction on Chipmunk aircraft at the Toronto Flying Club, then situated at Malton. In 1952 he became Instructor Manager of the London (Ontario) Flying Club before being invited in 1955 to accept the position of Secretary Manager of the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association (RCFCA) with headquarters in Ottawa. It was in this position that he remaied for almost 30 years, retiring as its national President in 1984.

During the RCFCA term of office, he helped to form the National Air Museum Society, a charitable entity designed to encourage the federal government of the day to take emergency steps to properly protect for public display the priceless Canadian aviation artefact collection that lay fire and vandal prone in decaying World War II aircraft hangers at Rockcliffe airport, Ottawa. Bill was a founding director of the Society which in the mid 1980s was instrumental in convincing appropriate powers to fund the construction of the large Rockcliffe hanger that presently contains the world class Canada Aviation Museum. Remaining intermittently active in the Society in the intervening years, Bill was elected its President in 1994 and continues as one of its directors to this day. He is married to Joan and they reside in Ottawa.

On October 18, 1989 at the invitation of the late Madame Jeanne Sauve, then Governor General of Canada, William Philip Paris was called to Rideau Hall where he was presented with the Order of Canada.

His citation read: *His life has been dedicated to supporting the cause of aviation in Canada, particularly as President of the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association and he has influenced countless airline, bush, military, general aviation and recreational pilots who have helped to identify Canada as one of the foremost providers of skilled, professional aircrew in the world.*

Elwy Yost, BA, CM

Elwy Yost was born in Weston and grew up in the north end of town at 402 Main Street. During his years at Weston Collegiate and Vocational School- 1938-1943, Elwy was a very popular student and developed a wide circle of friends. In September 1943 he enrolled in chemical engineering at the University of Toronto and quickly determined that this was not his calling. He then joined the Canadian Infantry from which he was honourably discharged in September 1945. At the end of September 1945 Elwy returned to the University of Toronto where he pursued a sociology course and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948.

Like many Canadians and New Canadians, Elwy worked for A.V. Roe during the 1950s and became one of many "casualties" when the Avro Arrow Aircraft project was cancelled. Fortunately, he was not in the ranks of the unemployed for long; in 1959, high school teachers were in short-supply in Ontario and Elwy was soon hired by his Weston Collegiate English teacher, Tom Boone (then Director of Education for the Borough of Etobicoke) and assigned to teach English and History at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate.

From High School teaching, Elwy moved to educational TV and finally to the position for which he is best known, Host of the popular TVO program,*Saturday Night at the Movies*. He received the Order of Canada from Governor General, Romeo LeBlanc on September 23, 1999.

Carole (Goss) Taylor, BA, OC

Carole (Goss) Taylor is arguably the most famous and accomplished alumna/us of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School (WCVS) of the past 50 years (1957-2007). In the October 2006 issue of Good Times Magazine, Johanna Renay wrote about Carole: She has juggled married life and motherhood with a multifaceted career in television, business, and politics and along the way she has received numerous honours including the Order of Canada. Some highlights of Carole's illustrious career are tabulated below:

- 1964 Carole graduates from WCVS and is crowned Miss Toronto at the Metropolitan Toronto Police Games. In September 1964, Carole enrolls at Victoria College, University of Toronto.
- 1964, The newly crowned beauty queen begins hosting "After Four", a teenage television program on Toronto's CFTO channel. She continues to host a number of daytime shows on CFTO until 1972 when she began co-hosting CFTO's "Canada AM" with Percy Saltzman.
- Shortly after the birth of her son, Christopher, in 1972, Carole Taylor was asked by Walter Cronkite if she would consider going to New York to work for CBS. She declined.
- After leaving Canada AM in 1973, Carole went to work for W5, CTV's flagship public affairs program and investigative magazine where she regularly interviewed the rich and famous. One such interview with Margaret Trudeau so impressed Pierre Trudeau that he asked Taylor to run as a Federal Liberal MP. She declined. Subsequently, she was to decline a similar offer from Prime Minister Chrétien.
- The most tense moments in her career with W5 came when she covered the Yom Kippur War in Israel, the devastation and flooding in Honduras and the coup in Chile, all in the early to mid-70s.
- After leaving CTV, Carole worked for the CBC in Vancouver hosting "Pacific Report and Authors", "Scene from Here" and "Vancouver Life".
- From 1986 to 1990 Carole served as a Vancouver City Councillor and subsequently went on to chair several organizations including the Vancouver Port Authority, Canada Ports Corporation and the Vancouver Board of Trade and from 2001 to 2005, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

- On February 22, 2002, Carole Taylor was made an Officer of the Order of Canada (OC) by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.
- For her many accomplishments in the fields of broadcasting, politics and public service, Taylor received the 2004 Victoria College Distinguished Alumni Award.
- In 2005 Carole Taylor resigned as chair of the CBC and entered Provincial Politics as a Liberal candidate. She is now, (2007), Minister of Finance in the cabinet of BC Premier, Gordon Campbell.

David Eadie CM

After graduating from WCVS in 1942, David Eadie attempted to join the RCAF but was rejected due to an ear condition. Having seen the first (plywood) Mosquito Bomber fly over Weston in 1941, David Eadie was motivated to join DeHavilland Aircraft where he remained until 1945, working on the assembly of Mosquito wings, while gaining valuable wood-working experience. When DeHavilland halted production of the Mosquito bomber after World War II, David Eadie established a successful specialty wood-working shop on Jane Street, just north of Church Street where he made industrial parts and toys. The shop was subsequently moved to the Weston Road/Oak Street area and ultimately, to a Kleinburg farm on Highway 27 just north of the Kirby Sideroad where Mr. and Mrs. Eadie now reside.

In 1954, the United Church accepted David Eadie for training as a technical missionary at Emmanuel College, U of T and in 1955 the family was sent to central India where Mr. Eadie directed construction of a sawmill and associated machine shop. The Eadies remained in India for approximately 15 years working on various projects, training locals etc. including the establishment of several ground water wells following a severe drought in the mid 1960s.

After returning from India in 1970, David Eadie traveled extensively in Africa (1970- 1971) for the Ottawa-based Canadian Hunger Foundation.

With the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) the Eadies worked on a variety of projects in Indonesia (1972-76) including sawmills, machine shops. a crocodile farm for a belly-leather tannery and a plant to build ferro-cement boats for local fishermen. From 1977 until 1981 David Eadie worked in Labrador as an economic development officer studying the area's hydroelectric power potential and in January 1982, he accepted a United Nations' assignment in Rangoon, Burma (now Myanmar) working for that country's Ministry of Cooperatives. During his five years in Burma, David Eadie directed the construction of food storage facilities, saw mills, machine shops and trained locals in their operation and maintenance. He then retired (first time), returned to Canada at the end of 1986 and spent the next 18 months building his current Kleinburg home on the farm he had purchase in 1951. Once the house was completed in 1988, David Eadie returned to active duty as a technical advisor and spent about 10 years work in on many projects in the Philippines and South America (Colombia, Peru etc.) for the Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO).

He retired early in 2002 and returned to his Kleinburg home, where he keeps busy building furniture, wood sculpting etc.

On August 31, 2002, David Eadie received the Order of Canada from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson for a lifetime of selfless dedication in assisting people in Third World Countries.

The Order of Canada Induction of Dr. Vera Peters O.C., a 1928 graduate of Weston High and Vocational School, by Governor General Jules Leger, Ottawa.
Photo courtesy: The University Health Network Photographic Department

Vera Peters
Photo couresy: The University Health Network Photographic Department

The Order of Canada induction of Esmond Butler, O.C., a 1941 graduate of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, by Governor General Jeanne Sauve, April, 1989.
Photo courtesy: The Governor General's Office

The Order of Canada induction of Flight Lieut. William P. ParisO.C., a 1938 graduate of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, by Governor General Jeanne Sauve, October, 1989.
Photo courtesy: William Paris

Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, by Governor General Romeo LeBlanc, Ottawa, September 23, 1999.
Photo courtesy: Larry McGuire

The Order of Canada Inducton of Carole (Goss) Taylor O.C., a 1964 graduate of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Quebec City, February 22, 2002.
Photos courtesy: Carole Taylor

The Order of Canada Induction of David Eadie C.M., a 1942 graduate of Weston Collegiate and Vocational School, by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, Ottawa, August 31, 2002.
Photos courtesy: David Eadie

Some legacies of WHS and WHVS

School Crest

No records have been found to confirm that Weston Grammar School (1857-1871) ever had an official school crest. Similarly, no records have been found to confirm that Weston High School (1871-1922) had an official school crest.

At Weston Collegiate's 140th Anniversary in October 1997, Mrs. Florence (Cairns) MacKenzie of Guelph, Ontario – an amazingly fit and spry 95-year-old – showed her sterling silver school ring to Principal Tony Kerins and a few members of the Reunion's Organizing Committee. The ring was later photographed by WCVS alumnus Robert (Bob) Williams and the photograph is appended to this chapter as *Figure 1*. The numbers and letters on the ring indicate that Mrs. MacKenzie graduated from Grade 12 (Form IV) in 1922 when the school's name was still Weston High School (WHS). One can reasonably speculate that the turquoise white and blue "shield" on the ring may have been the official school crest for the early years of the twentieth century.

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation is deeply indebted to the late Gordon Thompson (a retired school teacher and student at Weston High and Vocational School from 1925 to 1930) for donating the first five issues of the School's Year Book (1927-1931 inclusive) to the school's archives. The covers of the 1930 and 1931 issues of the Year Book *(Conning Tower)* are of special interest because they show the forerunner of the present-day school crest for the first time. The same crest subsequently appeared on the cover of several later issues of the *Conning Tower*, including those of 1937, 1938, 1949 and 1951. The 1930 crest was designed by Herbert Ellis, a colleague of Gordon Thompson's and his name (H. Ellis) appears on the cover (lower right hand corner) of the 1930, 1931 and 1937 issues of the *Conning Tower* (*Figure 2*).

The Alumni Foundation attempted to locate Herbert Ellis and/or some family member(s) with a view to obtaining a photograph of this talented artist for the School's Hall of Memories without success. Fortunately, a passport-size photo of the artist appears in the 1929 issue of the *Conning Tower* and from that, the Finnish/Canadian artist, Ms. Ritva (Manner) Rasmussen of Parry Sound, Ontario prepared an excellent likeness which is appended to this chapter as *Figure 3*.

The Ellis School Crest features a torch illuminating a book of knowledge above a shield bearing the letters WHVS. On each side of the shield, there is a maple leaf and an L-shaped surround. Beneath the shield, a ribbon carries the School's Latin motto *Manu Cordeque* – With Hand and With Heart. In recent years (exact date unknown), the Ellis School Crest was changed somewhat by eliminating the two L-shaped surrounds and by simplifying the shape of the torch and book of knowledge. The Latin motto, however, has never changed.

Figure 3. Herbert Ellis

School Song

At a meeting of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation Executive early in the new millennium, Principal Sharon List asked if Weston Collegiate had a School Song. None of the persons present had ever heard of one. A few months later, Sharon's question was printed in the Alumni Newsletter and this resulted in two prompt and affirmative responses, one from Mrs. Helen (Jennett) Cooper (class of 1943) and the other from her colleague, John Wallace. Both confirmed that a school song had been composed in 1939 by Bruce Metcalfe, the school's music teacher and conductor of the school orchestra. John Wallace also thought that a Latin teacher had provided the lyrics, but neither he nor Helen Cooper were able to name that teacher.

A day or two after the affirmative responses, Stewart Hill (class of 1943) advised the Alumni Foundation that the lyrics of the School Song had been published on page 68 of the 1940 *Conning Tower*. Subsequently, Helen Cooper and Gary Seagrave (class of 1954) reproduced the music. Both music and lyrics appear below:

First Verse
Onward Weston, brave and bold!
Life is for those who meet it!
Take the best from what is old,
Set your heart to beat it!
As a soldier goes to the war
Mocking death with laughter,
Toss your courage on before
Gain will follow after!

Second Verse
Here the field and here the goal,
Hear the challenge hearty!
Take the play with all your soul!
Life's a fighting party!
When our children sing this song,
Let them not us pity!
Therefore let us stride along
And sing our wondrous ditty!
Chorus

Chorus
Weston! Weston! Hand and heart for Weston!
Hand and heart for the white and blue!
Weston! Weston! Raise a cheer for Weston!
Fight to make her losses few,
Let's clean upon Scarb'ro, York and Runnymede
Mimico, 'Tobico, then we're in the lead, so!
Weston! Weston! Hand and heart for Weston!

According to Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Hill, the School Song was quite popular during the early 1940s, but faded from the school scene after the end of World War II (1945). Mr. Hill believes that the Latin teacher mentioned above may have been Mr. "Andy" Anderson.

C Emin F G C Amin

Verse 1: On——ward WES——TON, brave and bold; life is for those who

Dmin7 G7 C Emin F G

meet it. Take the best from what is old;

Amin Amin/E D7 G F F/C

set you–r heart to beat it. As a sol——dier

B♭ A7 Dmin Gdim/C# F/C Amin Dmin7/G G7

goes to the war mock—ing death with laugh————ter.

C Emin F A7 D7 D7/F#

Toss your cou——rage on be———fore, gain will fol——low

G7 C C G7/D C/E F G7

Refrain

af————ter. WES—TON, WES—TON, Hand and heart for Weston hand and

Amin G7 C C G7/D

(B) (A) (B)

heart for the white and blue! WES——TON, WES—TON,

C/E F G7 Amin D7 G

(D)

Raise a cheer for Weston! Fight to make her los——ses few.

F C/E Dmin G7 C C#dim

Let's clean up on Scar-b'ro, York and Runn-y——mede; Mi———mi–co, 'To—bi—o,

Dmin7 G7 C G7/D C/E F G7

then we're in the lead. So WES—TON, WES—TON, Heart and hand for Weston! Raise a

Amin D7 G7 C

cheer for the white and blue.

Weston Collegiate School Song

Mus.by B.Metcalfe(1940) Arr.by G.Seagrave(class'54)

C G7/D C/E F G7 Amin G7

WES——TON, WES——TON, Hand and heart for Weston hand and heart for the white and

C C G7/D C/E F G7

blue!—————— WES——TON, WES——TON, Raise a cheer for Weston! Fight to

Amin D7 G F C/E

make her los——ses few. Let's clean up on Scarb'ro,

Dmin G7 C C♯dim Dmin7 G G7

York and Runny——mede; Mum—i—co, 'Tob—i—co, then we're in the lead, So

C G7/D C/E F G7 Amin D7 G7

WES——TON, WES——TON, Heart and hand for Weston! Raise a cheer for the white and

C

blue!

Bruce Metcalf, composer of the school song, retires in 1956.

Chapter 3

The Fifties

Reflecting the flourishing economy of the 1950s, enrolment at Weston Collegiate and Vocational School (WCVS) rapidly grew and soon crowded the old building, parts of which dated back to 1912 with virtually nothing added since the mid 1920s. Enrolment in September 1952 was 1,270 in a building designed for 750. As mentioned above (Chapter 1), student numbers increased until the later 1950s then declined because new high schools opened in nearby communities. Classified as a composite high school, it had four distinct sectors: General (academic), Commercial, Vocational (technical), and Home Economics. During the 1950s, the school there it was usually referred to as WCVS. All the Directors and Department Heads reported to Principal E.H.G. (Ernest) Worden. The Commercial section was headed by Mr. R.S. (Ray) Scott, the Vocational by Mr. J. (Jerry) McLean, and the Home Economics by Miss W. Walton. In the General sector, the Department Heads were T.D. (Tom) Boone (English until 1952), C.Wesley Christie (Classics), Ralph Heard (Mathematics), Janet Smith (Modern Languages), Dora Wattie (History), and R.E. Whiting (Sciences) In 1950, Mr. Boone became WCVS's first Vice Principal, but left in 1952 on being appointed Principal of a new High School (Royal York Collegiate) in the Township of Etobicoke. Mr. Christie succeeded Mr. Boone as Vice Principal in September 1952 and in 1958 succeeded Mr. Worden as Principal when the latter retired. Mr. Heard became Vice Principal when Mr. Christie was appointed Principal.

Throughout Capters three to eight, the comments of many former students ae presented essentially as received with minimal editing. All contributors are amed in the acknowlegement section at the front of the book.
It was not only the building that represented earlier times, for the practice of separating boys and girls in grade 9 classes, in hallways and other places continued. Grade 9 classes were segregated by sex (probably a good idea at that age) and contained students not only from Weston but parts of North York and Etobicoke and some as far away as Nobleton, Kleinburg, Schomberg, Woodbridge and Pine Grove who were bussed in. Most of us from Weston had attended Senior Public School (now C.R.Marchant) and were used to rotary classes but those from K-8 (Kindergarten to grade 8) public schools found moving from class to class somewhat confusing." Some of us from North York had experienced rotation of classes in elementary school, but not the separation of boys and girls. "I also accepted bussing or riding my bike for probably half an hour to get to school as normal." Here is what impressed a student arriving from a different high school, "My arrival at WCVS in November 1955 brought many surprises. Student lineups outside (girls at separate entrances from boys) and walked single file to our classrooms with absolutely no talking." A local student was more nervous than surprised, "I remember entering high school with much trepidation. I was in awe of the older students."

Then came initiation. "We wore pyjama tops backward under our regulation tunic, hair done up in rags, one high heel shoe, one sneaker and books in a pillow case. We had to travel by public transit to a football game at York Memo. That must have caused some hilarity among the other passengers."

Lunchtime provided a welcome break in the day. Many students lived close enough to go home, but for those from farther away headed to the cafeteria where they sat with friends and caught up on the news. "Because I lived approximately two miles from school, I stayed for lunch which we ate in the basement cafeteria. Here, again, sexes were separated and the teachers patrolled up and down the tables making sure we were quiet and orderly." Was the school noted for its fine food as this student suggests? "I brought my lunch most times but I remember on special occasions a meat pie and mashed potato/gravy dish that was quite tasty and filling." Another student remembers many lunches – and the exchange of jokes – in the rather dingy basement cafeteria.

A tradition for girls was uniforms consisting of "the dreaded tunics, white blouses, bloomers and black stockings (that always got runs in them in the middle of the day)." The teachers had a constant struggle to maintain girls' modesty. For example, "Miss Leckie would have us kneel down and make sure that they were the required length from the floor. As soon as gym class was over, we would pull them up above the belt to make them shorter. In 1954, the tunics were replaced by long grey skirts and white blouses that were most unpopular and did not last." Another graduate writes that one "teacher did not hesitate to give her opinion on your appearance and deportment, i.e., my favourite brown sweater was discouraged and a 'brighter' colour suggested." Change did begin slowly, "In 1955, the long grey skirt and white blouse were introduced as a 'temporary measure' because of the alarming rising hemlines of the tunic. The blue bloomers or romper suit became our Phys Ed outfit."

While not required to wear uniforms, all the boys had to to belong to cadets. Once a year there was the famous cadet inspection. Some of the male teachers would try desperately to fit into their uniforms from the war (when they weighed much less!) All the boys, in uniform, would stand out in the yard in the hot sun while we girls got to stay in class and watch out the windows. There were mock battles with tanks etc. It was quite a spectacle. Another student from the late 950s has a different impression, "Cadet training was offered after school and was a matter of choice. There were no inspections, no mock battles, and the girls sadly had no more free periods while practice and inspections took place." My experience until I graduated in 1952 was compulsory participation in cadets. Another graduate believes that the boys who experienced the annual Cadet inspection will never forget it because "they couldn't march properly, itchy pants, too small shoes and half the time the tops didn't meet the bottoms!"

In the spring of 1952, construction began on a new wing which included an auditorium, cafeteria, library, science labs and additional classrooms; we underwent a lot of noise and disruption until work was finally completed in October 1954. A graduate felt very fortunate to arrive when the new wing was opened. The boys stepped into a splendid new gymnasium; Science was an adventure in the well-equipped labs and lunches a pleasure in the spic and span cafeteria. Another graduate thinks the students appreciated the new facilities, for "we had bright, modern classrooms in the new wing and plenty of room. The new addition had a wonderful auditorium where many plays and music nights were held." In the old building

students had stood for assemblies held every morning in the gymnasium. In the new auditorium they could sit down. These assemblies also changed, being held only monthly and the singing of hymns ceased. And what a change it made for dances, "The new gym made a modern setting for the Prom although we still had the aroma of running shoes" (as in the old gym). The third floor, despite being condemned by the Fire Department, continued to be used for gym classes, archery after school, and for music. The third floor, where Bruce Metcalfe taught us Music, had a rickety floor and when part of the ceiling in the third floor classroom collapsed (fortunately there were no students up there at the time), the classroom was condemned.

Dances were notable social events and memories could last a long time. "Some dances I remember, i.e., sock hops, annual At Home. In 1955 the decorations were outstanding – "Celestial Heavens" with a large hanging blinking star strobe light, blue draping cloth, and hundreds of tiny hanging silver stars. We always got good crowds, i.e., 450 students past and present, along with teachers as chaperones. We had live orchestras, i.e., Frankie Kaye, and student Paul Seagrave and his orchestra." More modest were the coke dances after school. They were held in the cafeteria. They were well attended and lots of fun. …It was a chance to meet other students in the school and get to know your classmates in a different setting. Boys asked girls to go to a dance. Tradition dictated that, but for boys too shy to ask a girl there was the annual Sadie Hawkins dance when the role was reversed.

These non-academic activities had other values according to one graduate, "Decorating the cafeteria for various dances, helping to raise money for the United Appeal, preparing for the Centennial Celebrations, practising for the orchestra and drama club and conducting school business through the Student Council – all are examples of our working together. Intercollegiate rugby, hockey and interform basketball and volleyball have taught us to be good sports: that is to win and even to lose graciously." And there were many lighter moments. For example, will any of the girls ever forget appearing at their first football game in pyjamas and hairpins?"

Sports teams were important in creating and maintaining school spirit and this was furthered also by the cheerleaders. One remembers, "Cheerleading was really fun! I think that we took it seriously. We were to get the crowd to yell like mad for the Iron Men. Sometimes we'd be cheering & it would be freezing cold. We had to skip school when the TDIAA finals were taking place. It was always a challenge! I think that the year one of our cheerleaders won Miss Cheerleader she had skipped school to go to the competition." Did she bring a note to school the next day?

Teachers are remembered with respect and sometimes with fear or fondness. "My favorite course and teacher was History with Dora Wattie. I also enjoyed Latin with Wes Christie, Math with Ralph Heard and Doug Lancaster, and English with Gordon Bailey." Miss Wattie left indelible impressions on scores of students during her teaching career at Weston from 1928 until her retirement in 1967. She also made a permanent contribution to the school's long history "In October 1956 we celebrated our Centennial – three days including a football game, reception, ball, church service. Miss Wattie was preparing a memorial book and was asking for pictures, articles, etc., Dr. Joseph B. Tyrrell, a famous geologist, from Weston, but then living in Scarborough, helped fill in history gaps." Memories of teachers can be mixed, "As petrified as I was of Miss Carrie I still admired her wardrobe. She sure was a great dresser. I still

remember Mr. Christie hollering at me in Latin class for not using all my horsepower. Also in German class, if Mr. Sneddon caught you talking to a boy his comment was 'wir haben keine zeit fur lieben ans dieser klasse': Sometimes their empathy with students was obvious, "There were Grade 13 provincial exams and the teachers spent long hours preparing us for them. We agonized over them but so did the teachers. I still remember Janet Smith meeting us at the door of the classroom as we came out, and she was so anxious to know how we had done. She told us she worried if anyone said it was really easy because that meant they had missed the trick questions." Easy? Hardly. "It was during one of those exams that I remember a student fainting, the only time I have ever seen that happen. "Those final exams finished five memorable years. "The only exams that stick in my mind were the Grade 13 finals in 1957. The whole school year was geared to these departmental finals and the weather was very hot. However we survived, but I am glad that Ontario eventually abolished Grade 13."

Another example of a teacher's understanding a student's condition is the story told by a graduate of 1956. Gord Bailey taught Grade 13 English and one student who sat near the front of the classroom was Bob Pulford, who was playing hockey with the Toronto Marlboroughs. During an English composition class one warm spring day, Bob drifted off to sleep with his head on his arms on the desk. Mr. Bailey allowed Bob to stay that way until the end of the period when the bell rang to announce the changing of classes. Before he excused us, Mr. Bailey told our class that Bob had had a Marlie game the previous night and was obviously tired so we were asked to leave the room quietly and do our best not to disturb Mr. Pulford. We vacated the room without waking Bob, and we heard the rest of the story later from Mr. Bailey. He had met the next class at his door, advised them of Bob's situation and asked them to enter the room quietly so as not to disturb him. Sometime later in the period Bob woke up with a start, looked around, and not recognizing anyone, quickly realized what had happened. He apologized to Mr. Bailey, and left the room sheepishly to search out the rest of his classmates. Gord Bailey was one of those 'special' teachers who genuinely cared for his students and this little story is simply one of many to illustrate that point."[1]

Teachers performed many roles for, according to one graduate, they were "our slave drivers, morale boosters, our conscience and our most firm and loyal supporters. They have been the middlemen between our textbooks and ourselves; through which we have met and listened to many great scientists, mathematicians and poets. We know that many of our teachers were connected with some extra-curricular activity and therefore have much to do besides classroom instruction. Some teachers were early risers to be present for eight-thirty detentions. At times, we appeared to take our teachers for granted but really, without their capable guidance and enduring patience, we would not have graduated. Some of their priceless expressions are forever memorable:

"You know my dear sweet pets, I can't learn for you!".
"Come on people, give me one example of enjambment".
"You'll never get along in life with that attitude".

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[1] Bob Pulford's permission to publish this story was sought and received. After graduating from WCVS, Bob earned a BA from McMaster University while still playing professional hockey. He had an outstanding career as a professional hockey player and was inducted into the National Hockey League's Hockey Hall of Fame in 1991.

Here are more wonderful memories of teachers, "I had Bruce Metcalfe for music and loved his class. He always made the time fly by. We listened to opera, musicals & hymns. He told interesting stories about the composers. He used to say that if you weren't enjoying the class to do your homework without bothering anyone and he'd give you a pass." "I, too, enjoyed Mr. Metcalfe's classes and, also, tried to contribute by playing in the school orchestra. One graduate remembers that experience vividly: "My fondest memory of school activities was my involvement in the school orchestra. We played at the morning assemblies and at the school commencement exercises. But the major challenge for the orchestra was probably in 1953. That summer the music teacher, Bruce Metcalfe, scored George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" for piano and orchestra. Bruce played the piano solo and conducted the orchestra. It was fantastic! That performance was the highlight of my five years in the orchestra."

I have similar memories of Mr. Metcalfe as well as of Mr. Whiting. They left lasting impressions. One graduate remembers Mr. Whiting as " a clever fellow who loved science & we did experiments that really fizzed and bubbled. It was fascinating stuff. If we could manage to get him off topic he really knew a lot about ferns, insects and frogs. He took us up to his property in Innisfil to make maple syrup. That was certainly the personal touch."

Let us continue with these memories: "Miss Leckie, our (gym) teacher, winning a volleyball tournament and a trophy cup 1956 for Track and Field 'Senior'. Mr. Lancaster presented it to me. This was one of the highlights of my years at Weston." Another teacher was the grandson of a famous Czech composer. "Music teacher Mr. (Joe) Dvorak followed me from Orangeville to Weston and for a year I played viola in his instrumental class. "Land of Hope and Glory". Mr. Ernie Worden, the principal, was known by students as a strong believer in discipline. "I arrived at WCVS two weeks before Christmas exams. Unsuccessfully, I asked to be exempted and this was the one and only time my mother came to the school. Mr. Worden, principal, requested that I make an attempt and for the next two weeks I copied students' notes. Fortunately, I did very well and was congratulated on my achievement by Mr. Worden." Very often he knew what was better for a student than did the student herself. He set a model for the school in other ways, e.g., in the daily opening assemblies where students stood for prayers, singing, and announcements. "We had to stand in order to fit us all in. The daily hymn was 'Unto the Hills...', Ernie Worden's favourite. I was a member of Central United Church's choir and we sang that hymn at Mr. Worden's funeral. It was hard to choke back the tears."

Another member of school staff is remembered. "Has anyone mentioned Miss Hardy the school nurse? She always had a smile on her face and was very kind. I think many students spent time in her office to avoid classes and she had a ear for listening. I remember being asked several times to fetch a classmate from her office and Miss Hardy would be there with a student sobbing on her shoulder and another one fast asleep on a cot. I'll bet that she could have written her own book on WCVS." That, no doubt, would be an interesting read.

Grade 9 students in the General (academic) sector of the school enjoyed some exposure to the other sectors. For example, girls received some instructions from the Commercial and Home Economics teachers (e.g., typing, shorthand, sewing, etc.) while boys received instructions from Vocational teachers

(e.g., motor mechanics, sheet metal, machine shop, woodworking and electrical). This dimension of our high school education and those teachers' efforts were often not appreciated at that time. Sometimes the results were surprising, and, in a few cases, long lasting. "The metal shop teacher was Mr. Baxter -- and I can still remember his (and my!) surprise when my first solder joint was pretty good (as in "Geeez, Ken, that's perfect!). Mr. Gord Russell was the woodworking teacher – his big caution was that you could really get hurt by the fast turning stuff in woodworking – as compared with the slow turning stuff in machine shop. There was no exemption from the shop courses for Grade 9 General students in 1954 (it was compulsory, just like Phys Ed – uuggggghh!) The only option was instrumental music vs. art – I was in 9G – the "musicians" – with guys like George Johnston, so in 9C, Don Richardson may have been with the "artists"!

Another student was easily terrified and, it seems, had little success. "Yes,indeed I can confirm that in grade 9 I was exposed to shop courses 2-3 hours a week. We rotated through 2-3 of the many available shops, and I chose (or more likely was pushed into – not sure) Auto Mechanics for one term, Metal Shop, then finally Drafting. I seem to remember that if you took Instrumental Music in grade 9, you did NOT get the forced-shop option. I remember Mr. Hoey, the drafting teacher, who had all of us (me, at least) terrified beyond belief. He had this ruse of pretending to have a pet mouse in his desk drawer that liked to sleep during the day, and he 'didn't want that mouse disturbed.' And of course it took very, very little to do so. Anyone even whispering was usually greeted with a loud whack of a strap or yardstick on his desk (one feared one's backside was the next target) followed by the 'Somebody woke up my mouse!' line. That usually caused me to completely ruin whatever I was drafting at the time, provoking even more terror in me. It's a wonder I could ever draw a straight line again after that class. I think my hand still shakes when I start to draw. In Metal shop, I was a complete dud, never managing to get the flux right to solder two bits of anything together, except maybe my own fingers. Still can't do a simple plumbing connection to this day."

However, not all was lost with him. "Then there was the wonderful Mr. Constable in Auto, who gave me perhaps the single most useful course I have ever taken in a school anywhere in my life, short as it was. I credit him with demystifying the workings of a car, partly by having us tear down old Ford stick shift transmissions, or watching how a distributor works, etc. He probably saved me hundreds if not thousands of dollars in later life simply by making me aware of what mechanics are talking about and helping me to recognize when they are trying to sell me something not really needed. He also had a quiet way of making us all terrified, but with a much nicer manner."

Some lessons in life are only learned from reflection—as well as from getting older! "Come to think of it, maybe it was just my weekly trek through the halls down to that 'tough end' of the school that got me terrified before I even entered the shop! (Hmmmm – seem to remember that on the way there I kinda liked having to go by those hot, unavailable Commercial girls with their trashy blouses, big hair, cheap jewelry, and (GASP!) bubble gum. I was such a runt back then that I got frightened to death just getting down there with my geeky pile of French and Latin books! Yikes! That's where the 'hoods' hung out! In fairness, I think such exposures (which later led to fleeting but delicious bad-boy friendship flings with duck-tailed hub cap stealers and hot rodders) probably rounded off some of the snobby parts of me that

one risked by joining the Academic (General) stream. So all in all, it was probably a great idea! Later in my career as a teacher, I witnessed experiments in various schools with 'Unified Arts' (co-ed welding, sewing, cooking and machine shop all-in one) but gimme that old Weston walk of terror to shop class any day as good prep for later life! How many of us thought it was a "walk of terror" to the shop classes?"

"Once again, you have stirred the pot of old Weston memories, which I daresay will continue to mark us all for the rest of our lives."

Weston's downtown was close and familiar to students. "Walking to Inch's Drug Store after getting our school supply list and snacking at Bunda's Coffee shop were popular events." It was important to get advertisements from local businesses to help finance the annual school year book, for "Everyone looked forward to the appearance of the *Conning Tower* each Spring."

A great deal of work went into the yearbook, which chronicled events of the past year in photos and stories. This was but one of many activities that are also part of young peoples' education although held outside of the classroom. "There was an active Drama Club in the 1950s. The 1957 production was *You Can't Take It With You*, a hilarious comedy from the late 1930s."

It is often difficult to pin down exactly who influenced students at that age and precisely how, but I expect many will agree with one graduate's opinion,"There were so many excellent teachers who had such a great influence on my life while I was a student, and I am forever grateful to them."

Graduating Class T-12, June 1955

Front Row L to R: Ron Burton, Harvey Oakley, Dave Alexander, Bev Campbell, Bill Loughrin.
2nd Row L to R: Ray Zevalds, Bob Saunders, Bob Harrington, Butch Clifford, Bill Rowntree
3rd Row L to R: Ed Rickwood, Don Cook, Don Flynn, Dave Salter, Carl Davidson
Back Row L to R: Bruce Taylor, Henry Barker, Ron Thomson, Millar Young, Russ Hewgill, Lloyd Guest, Ron Hawman, Bill MacTaggart, Jim Wilson

Photo courtesy: Jim Wilson

Woodworking Specials 1955 with Teacher, Gordon Russell

Back Row L to R: Bill Rowntree, Ron Hawman, Bob Harrington, Mr. Gordon Russell
Kneeling Row L to R: Bev Campbell, Bob Saunders, Jim Wilson.

The woodworking special were those students who wished to become cabinetmakers or carpenters. They studied house construction as well as furniture design and building for two years, Grade 11 and 12, along with their normal academic subjects Mathematics, English, History, Geography and Economics.

Photo courtesy: Jim Wilson

WCVS Graduation Formal: April 24, 1953

Back Row: Graham Creelman, John Macdonald, Hugh Snetsinger

Front Row: Elisabeth Coulthard, Mary Ellen (Marn) Mills, Sandra Sanders

Photo courtesy: Elisabeth (Coulthard) Gibson

Class 12A – 1950 – 51

Front Row L to R: Stewart Harvey, Jim Burgess, Ken Thompson Wesley Turner
2nd Row L to R: Marion Aitchison, Barbara Fisher, Gwen Smith, Don Laing, Margaret Ann Gemmell, Orlando Martini, Marie Brooks, Margaret Creighton
3rd Row (standing) L to R: Doug Shaw, Helen Shewfelt, Mary Jane Knapps, Lorraine Allen, Carol Beacon, Helen Barons, Betty Eddy, Jim Britton, Frank Best
Back Row L to R: Graham Grant, Michael Rose, Ted Diget, Alan Beardall, Don Redford, Brian Smallman-Tew, Ralph Shaw, Bev Harris. Source: O. Martini
Photo courtesy: Sheila (Semple) Rogers

Class 12B – 1950-51

Front Row L to R: Helen "Happy" LeGard, Sheila Semple, Marjorie McBride, Stanley Leuty, Morris Dicks, Bob Scott
Second Row L to R: June Vaughan, Helen Snyder (?), Miss D. Wattie, Mary-Jean Kennedy, Joan West, Anne Jamieson
Third Row L to R: Neil Alexander, George Barefoot, Bob Douglas, Beryl Milroy, Dorothy Macklem, Jack Parrish
Back Row L to R: Bob McConnell, Bill Pulford (?), Ross Humphrey, Eddie Macdonald, Bill Evans, Jack Gunn, Jim Houghton, Brian Mielke, Paul Skelding, Bertram Stewart—Source: Sheila Semple
Photo courtesy: Sheila (Semple) Rogers

Cadet Ken Hastings, driver of the reconnaissance tank known as a Honey in Canada and a Stuart in the U.S.A. – May 1951. Cadet Day was an annual event at WCVS during the early 1950s but this was the only time that a tank was brought to the School by the Queen's Own Rifles based at Toronto's Fort York.

Photo courtesy: Ken Hastings

Cadet Day, early 50s

Photo courtesy: Ken Hastings

Cheerleaders–1950

Front Row: Eleanor Desmond, Joan Pender, Sheila Semple, Ann O'Dell
Back Row: Mary Jane Knapp, Beryl Milroy, June Terrel, Mary Jane Bennett

Photo Courtesy: Sheila (Semple) Rogers

Cheerleaders–1955

Photo Courtesy: Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman

Graduating Class T-12, June 1955

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Photo Courtesy: Jim Wilson

WCVS Graduation Formal: April 24, 1953

Back Row: Graham Creelman, John Macdonald, Hugh Snetsinger

Front Row: Elisabeth Coulthard, Mary Ellen (Marn) Mills, Sandra Sanders

Chapter 4

The Sixties

The 1950s had seen rapid growth in the student body as well as structural changes to the building but the following decade would see even greater changes. In 1965 the school was renamed Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI) as a result of radical revisions to the educational system. Enrolment in Ontario high schools during this decade increased by 120 per cent. WCI shared in this growth with the result that by 1966, there were portable classrooms needed to accommodate all the additional students. That same year, the School Board asked Metro Toronto for funds to build an entirely new school and construction started two years later. It was constructed on the football field of the old collegiate and when it opened in September 1970, the original building was demolished and its site became the present football field. A former student wrote that with the disappearance of the old school "went 43 years of my life, 5 as a pupil and 38 as a teacher." Principal C.W. Christie served from 1958 to 1969, and was succeeded by Harris Hill.

A student from the early 1960s writes "I look back on my years at Weston Collegiate Institute full of nostalgia for the good times and fun that I had, for the friends who were so much a part of my every day life, and for all of the good things over the years that have come out of my association with the school. Life was carefree and full of promise – the world was at our feet. And yet, having said that, they were years of hard work and challenges. The teachers set high standards for us and we did our best to live up to those standards. Perhaps the best way for me to reflect on those formative years is to highlight some of my memories of those days."

In September 1961, Weston Collegiate and Vocational School was daunting for a thirteen year old Grade 9er fresh out of C.R. Marchant. It was all so new, so big, and so different. But with the usual courage of a teenager, I was soon involved in the life of the school and had buckled down to the challenges that the Grade 9, Arts and Science program presented to me.

There are wonderful memories of teachers. "We had such respect for our teachers. To this day, I still get upset when I think of an incident one day in 1962-63 in the middle of Mrs. Putnam's French class. The class leader had our attention, when we should have been paying attention to the French lesson. Finally Mrs. Putnam's patience gave out and she zeroed in on me for not listening to her. She indicated her displeasure with me in no uncertain terms in front of the whole class. It wasn't just me she was annoyed with, but I was the lucky one to be the recipient of her wrath. I was mortified to have upset her and to

this day, forty years later, I feel guilty when I think of the incident. I'm sorry Mrs. Putnam. Impressionable years indeed!" Another graduate has mixed memories. "One of my teachers was Mr. Chong, who taught Math. Some of the students would like to make mischief. One day some one lit some firecrackers in his class. Mr. Cole was another one of my teachers who was rather unusual at times. Mr. Sood was my Science teacher. Miss Cobham, my history teacher, made the Viking Warriors come alive!"

Another graduate recalls teachers outside of the school. "Mrs. Wild, the English teacher, might chastise you for spitting on the street in front of her house, then invite you inside for milk and cookies on the couch in front of her coal fireplace. On the sidewalk of Rosemount, you might meet Mr. Garlin, the German music teacher, with a feather in his Tyrolean hat as behind him the nuns from the convent went about their business like extras from *The Bells of St. Mary's*."

Here is a montage of memories, "the low ceilings and pink lockers in the "Tech Wing" and the rickety stairs leading up to the attic, the rifle range, the Christmas Food Drives with the sleigh in the foyer full of food. Mr. Christie standing outside of the office every morning – the showers in the girls' change rooms that were only used to store equipment– Sadie Hawkins Dances and the Prom." However, times were changing, and so "Sadie Hawkins dances became a thing of the past because you could attend a dance without a date by the late 60s." One graduate believes "Real Weston life happened outside of class, in the corridors, by our lockers, and out on the yard where the smokers huddled. Niners still went to after-school sock hops in the cafeteria, though sock-hops were already a dying form of entertainment, scorned by the higher grades. Monthly dances ran on themes, such as the Sadie Hawkins, where boys had their chance to feel the humiliation of being unasked to the dance."

Although student life in the school may have seemed carefree, one graduate remembers some restrictive traditions continuing. "The regimentation of the forties and the fifties was still alive in Weston late into the sixties. Students were streamed into four or five year programs in Arts, Business, or Technology and Nursing. We met in homeroom classes at the beginning and end of each day, having marched lock-step in-between. Poor Jane Mertens was the attendance pad bearer for our class, an office much hated by the Bad Boys, who wanted to scratch out their absences from it."

Only gym and specialty classes were separate for the sexes. Even arts boys were supposed to learn how to draft a floor plan, turn out a tack hammer on a lathe, or wire their houses without killing themselves. Girls marched off to home economics whose intention must have been to turn out housewives for a sharply contrasting force of stay-at-home moms.

A starting teacher has similar memories. "These were different times. Men had to wear a suit and tie. Between periods, teachers stood in the halls to ensure that students walked in straight lines in the hallways and stairwells. There was a different staff room for men and women. All staff was Anglo-Saxon. The strap was still a common discipline tool for vice principals. There were no spare periods for teachers and the class size was much higher. The technical classes were about twenty students. But for academics, two technical classes were put together giving you a minimum of forty students in your class. As a first year teacher, I was given all technical classes."

Nevertheless, times were changing. One indication was students' styles and appearances that, sometimes, proved a trial to parents. "Mini skirts, fishnet stockings and Nehru jackets were in. So were Bell bottomed pants that dragged on the ground. Stove pipe style pants were cool! Who didn't buy clothes at Jerry's Budget Centre located on Wilson and Jane? Boys wore their hair longer while girls had their hair cut short or in layers or long hair ironed straight. So many wanted to look like Twiggy but felt like Mama Cass."

Rita Hanlon taught at the school from 1945 to 1964 and contributed some memories of her experiences. Where to include them was the question. They seemed most relevant to the 1960s and that is why they are given in this chapter. In some ways, the stories she tells are timeless for this school. Here are a few memories of WCVS, starting with 1957. My problem is that since I was there from 1945 to 1964, I can't really separate all those happy memories from before 1957 from those after that date. I've been in touch with many students over the years and always enjoy hearing from you all. I'm choosing one in particular to write about.

The Wong family arrived in Weston from Hong Kong around 1960 when Gwen was in Grade 11. In order to complete Grade 13 in those days, a foreign language was necessary. Since one had to begin French in Grade 9, Gwen was obliged, as was her brother Ken, to start German. After completing Grade 13, Gwen entered an international order of Catholic nuns—called the Little Sisters of Jesus. Their work is to live among the poor in many lands and work with them, in all sorts of menial jobs. From being bilingual—Chinese-English, she expanded her language skills, first of all with French in Montreal, and then Italian in Rome. After Montreal, she lived in Washington and Moosonee, then at the Mother House in Rome where she took her final vows. Hong Kong followed, then Macaw [Macau]. Later, she became the regional supervisor for the Far East. All of this involved much traveling, as she visited the convents of Little Sisters in far flung areas of the Far East.

Now she is on the General Council of her order, and lives back at the Mother House in Rome—with even more travel, India, Afghanistan, Sweden. You name it, and Little Sister Gwen has probably been there. She even gets back to Canada once a year. Quite an outstanding graduate of WCVS!

Wow, a completely different kind of story! I taught for many years in the room right across from Mr. Calnan's Guidance Office. Some of you, who read this, will remember that in the frigid winter months, pigeons wanting to take shelter from the cold would somehow get into a vent from the chimney, and land at the bottom behind a big square grille under the blackboard. For these occurrences, we had a regular routine as the grille was always loosely fastened—we threw all the windows open and some brave boy would go up to the opening, grab the pigeon and let it go out the window. After this happened many times, one fine day, the chap lost his grip, and the poor bird flew a few turns around the classroom before making good his escape. What excitement!

The old structure continued to serve but was definitely showing its age. By 1967, one graduate describes the building as "magnificent and crumbling, with windows as tall as the impossibly high ceilings in the upper storeys, and a ceiling so low in the basement classrooms that you ducked your head under some of the wheezing pipes, or stared hard through the dim light at the other end of the corridor where you heard the click-click of the cleats on the shoes of the football team as they came in from practice." The condition of the third floor was even worse, for it "had been condemned by the time I arrived in 1961. We never really knew the reason, but none of us dared go up that wooden staircase to try to find out why." This mystery lasted until the end of that decade when some students proved to be bolder.

"I went to WCI the very last school year of the old building. The third floor was no longer being used. There were no classes held there, but on occasion I would sneak up the stairs and peek at the empty halls. I heard it was no longer safe to walk on. It was spooky!"

Another student with his friends "gathered the courage to creep up to the empty third floor, where old photos lay about, of girls in archery or shooting class, signs of changes from another time. We could have performed archeological digs up there, maybe found traces of rat packs from the fifties, zoot-suiters from the forties, and flappers from the twenties." That would certainly have been an unusual archeological dig!

One of these students after graduation enjoyed a long career with the Board of Education responsible for the school. "When plans for a brand new Weston Collegiate Institute were brought forth in the late 1960s, there was a strong push to keep some or all of the old school intact. There was a lot of history in that building and many residents of the Town of Weston felt it would be sacrilegious to destroy it all. But, after a hard fought battle, the new, modern Weston Collegiate Institute was opened. But it wasn't long until questions were raised about the open concept plan of the school and before too much longer, open classrooms were surrounded by walls, the Library was enclosed and the school took on a different internal traffic flow. That wasn't the last of the problems with the new school. The ceiling in the main entrance foyer, outside of the main doors to the auditorium, collapsed, shutting that area down for many months for repairs. Then there was a major asbestos removal that took place throughout the school, disrupting school programs for many months. I was continually involved as all of these trials and tribulations affected life at WCI. But, despite all of these little blips, the school has always done its best to provide excellent programs for its students, and continues to do so today."

Sports continued to be important in school life. Hockey and football were the major team sports and the games galvanized school spirit. Sometimes, a little too much as one student remembers: "One year Weston was playing East York Collegiate for the district championship (if memory serves me) and buses were chartered to take us to East York where the final was being held. Having won the championship, the bus was a little rowdy on the way home to say the least. I remember the bus driver stopping the coach and a Supervisor with the TTC coming on board and threatening to throw us all off the bus to find our own way home. To us Westonites, East York was the other end of the world, so things settled down considerably after that until we arrived back at the school." One of the pleasures of afternoon football games was dismissal of classes at noon. "We all loved to get off early from school to root for the Iron Men for the games in the afternoon." Then, the game deserved a follow-up. "After the games the gang would often head over to the Central Restaurant."

In those days, physical education was compulsory for the authorities believed that developing healthy bodies was an important part of the educational experience. Some students regarded gym classes as a chore, but not all. One writes, "Gym classes with Miss Leckie and Miss Tindall were always an adventure. The blue gym suits were not what you would call glamorous, but did serve their purpose. Periodically I would be reminded to bring it home to be washed. We were always terrified that one day we would arrive in the change rooms to find that the showers were no longer storage lockers for gym equipment and were in working order again. That would mean we all had to take a shower before we could move on to our next class. Oh horrors – we couldn't have a shower – our hairdos and makeup wouldn't stand the test – we couldn't face the boys less than perfect! As a result of dance classes, which were part of the Phys Ed program, to this day I still want to take the lead in a dance. Then there was the smell of sweaty gym suits and grungy running shoes wafting through the air during our next class, after gym. How come the boys in the class never carried gym bags? (Or does my memory fail me?)"

Music continued to be important. "Throughout all of my high school years the one constant I remember is my participation in the Choir and later, in the Triple Trio. Under the direction of Mary Fanning, the Choir performed on numerous occasions over the course of each school year. Together with the Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Garlin, we did some massive fund raising projects culminating in the Choir and Orchestra sporting brand new Royal Blue blazers with the school crest on the pocket. How very proud we were to wear those jackets and took meticulous care of them each time they were worn I remember how honored I was when Miss Fanning selected me to be a member of the Triple Trio. How hard we worked to sing like angels. What fun the nine of us had dashing from our seats after the completion of a song as part of the choir, running back stage to quickly change into our Triple Trio dresses (which we had all proudly made ourselves) and dashing back on stage to perform as the Triple Trio. Then we did it all again in reverse so we were ready to sing the next song with the choir – some times twice during a concert!"

This activity had other consequences for some students. "One school year the Choir and Orchestra planned an exchange with another high school choir and orchestra in eastern Ontario. I don't remember the name of the school now, but I remember all of the planning that went into this venture, the billeting of the students in our homes and the excitement of concert night. Then came our return visit to their town, reuniting with our new friends and the excitement of performing before strangers. My parents had agreed to let me billet two students provided they bunked together. I found two girls with the same last name on the list of students to be billeted, so put down that we would look after both of them. Imagine our surprise when they arrived and we found out not only were they not related but they really didn't know each other. Needless to say we were a little nonplused, but made the best of it and had a great time together once we had spent a few minutes together. The exuberance of teenagers! How lucky we were to have teachers and parents willing to undertake such a project. When I consider the hours of planning, preparation and organization it must have taken to pull it all together, I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to participate in the exchange. It was a great confidence builder and learning experience. Would such an excursion even be contemplated today?" Good question. Perhaps not because of costs and concerns about liability."

The main reason for going to school was to gain an education, leading, it was hoped, to a satisfying career. One student describes this experience. "While a lot of what I have talked about up until now concerned my extra-curricular life at school, always foremost was my academic life. Everything revolved around my studies – they came first. I worked hard at it, the expectations of the teachers were high, but, I believe, they always had the students' best interests at heart. Each year was a challenge for me and I was able to meet that challenge, but I finally realized that a University program was not in my future. In consultation with my parents and Mr. Calnan in the Guidance Office, we agreed that I would switch over to the one-year Special Commercial Program, an intensive one-year program, concentrating on typing, shorthand, bookkeeping and office practices. This transfer was one of the best decisions of my life and shaped my future."

Here is what happened, "As a result of this transfer in September, 1966, Ray Scott, Head of the Commercial Department at Weston, entered my life – again, a hard task master, but an excellent teacher, who brought out the best in his students. Through his guidance and encouragement, I excelled that year. As I became proficient in office skills he allowed me to spend more and more time in the Commercial Office learning all I could

about the workings of an office, under the watchful eye of June, Commercial Office Manager. As graduation approached in June, 1967, Mr. Scott encouraged me to apply for a job with the Township of York, soon to become, the City of York Board of Education. From the day I accepted that position, I never looked back. I firmly believe that, as a result of the influence of Ray Scott during my graduating year at Weston, and the confidence he instilled in me, I was fortunate to have a very successful and satisfying thirty-two year career with The Board of Education for the City of York." Another student recognized that, "CCM, Moffats, Kodak and Facelle employed many of our parents. We felt that jobs were out there awaiting us, whether we were studying in the Tech or Nursing programs, Four Year or Five Year Arts and Science or the Four Year Business Course." What a comfort to know that certain employment awaited you upon graduation – and what a contrast to present times.

The connection between the students and downtown Weston continued as before. "At the start of the school year we would trek off to Squibb's to get our text books. A quick stop in at the Central Restaurant meant a treat of french fries with gravy or a toasted danish while chatting with friends. There are many fond memories of the soda fountain at Inch's Drug Store or in Kresge's. The best hamburgers in Weston were sold at the top of Little Avenue on Weston Road. Ken Johns Men's wear was where the men shopped. A pool hall was located in the old Eagle House which stood on the north east corner of Weston Road and Lawrence. Wilf's Cycle and Sport used to do a brisk business. Rose's Music Centre was busy offering lessons in music to budding 'Wipe Out' drummers!"

There was another kind of connection with the community. "It was the Christmas drive. Each class collected non-perishable food and toys etc. and, just before Christmas they were all packed in hampers for the less fortunate. One form decided to concentrate on toys etc. Someone brought in a very used child's table and chairs. Larry Herschel, a grade nine student, offered to take it home to clean it up. To our surprise, a beautiful, brand new looking set appeared. He had sanded and completely refinished it. There was always such a wonderful atmosphere of love and caring around this project and, thanks to our students, Christmas was a much happier time for many families."

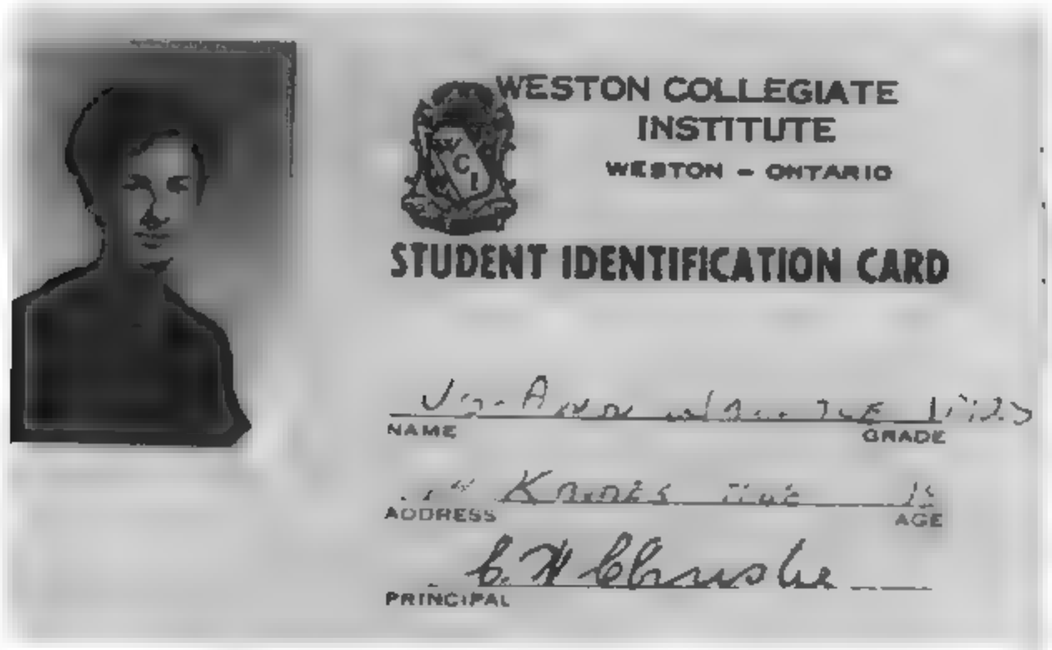
Students, as well as teachers, could not avoid being aware of problems and crises elsewhere in the world. There was the Korean War in the 1950s, but something much closer to home in this decade. "The most frightening time at the school was during the Cuban Missile crisis in 1962. We were given instructions on what to do in the event of an attack – exit all classrooms and sit with your back against the wall in the hall outside of the classroom and remain there until instructed to either evacuate the building or return to the classroom. As teenagers I don't think we fully understood the gravity of the situation, but looked on it as an exciting change in the daily routine of study, President Kennedy's assassination in November, 1963, shocked the school. When we heard the news at the end of the school day it was said, "What a black day that was. Students came pouring out of the rooms and so many were crying. It was so hard to believe."

That's now part of the history of that decade. More important for affecting their school lives was the move from the old building to the new. One graduate remembers it this way, "With all the arrogance of youth, we despised the old building. We had had Expo '67 to make us feel fresh and new, and we couldn't wait for the new life that lay before us, freshly painted and glowing like the city of OZ when the new high school appeared in 1970. All the spring before, teachers unloaded old equipment on us, science apparatus that might have been used by Marie Curie, and was just too old-fashioned for the new." The optimism of youth is refreshing.

Another graduate expressed deeper sentiments: "It seems the older I get, the fonder my memories of Weston become! WCI means more to me than a structure of bricks and mortar. It represents youthful longing, hope, innocence and opportunity! The memory of Weston Collegiate I have was of a simpler, slower, some might even say easier time of life and yet, while living it, we, as students, felt the pressure to be cool, to be accepted, to belong. So many memories, too little paper. Weston and Westonians are family. A happy time. A good time in my life. I feel a bond. I feel connected. I feel its home. Thank you Weston."

Glee Club 1963–64

Back Row L to R: Linda Cadwallader, Graham Barnes, Tim Koehler, David Cameron, George Meisner, Mauro Cotechini, Dan Duggan, Ray Koehler, Craig Elson, Robert Culham, Linda Taylor.
Third Row L to R: Nancy Booth, Bonnie Lamb, Joyce Redgrave, Beverley Spencer, Dorothy Moffat, Linda Pathier, Wendy Sharky. Sandra Greene, Marilyn Thompson, Norma Buckley, Marilyn Christie, Janice Blanche.
Second Row L to R: Miss Fanning, Rigmov Anderson, Jo–Ann Wallace, Judy Beirol, Pat Gale, Ann Munro, Nancy Casann, Patricia Patrick, Betty West, Carol Whittlesea, Mary Jane Glebe, Carol Inch.
Front Row L to R: Beverley Hancox, Cathy Stewart, Susan McCaskil, Bridgitte Beyerle, Laurance Dullaart, Cynthia Wong, Helen Bull, Janice Watson, Barbara Hall, Pat Mowat, Sylvia Wong, Margaret Macklem.



Student's ID Card in the 60s

Chapter 5

The Seventies

The principals during this decade were Harris Hill until 1975 when he was succeeded by Frank Irving who would serve until 1982. A change affecting the entire decade was the semester system[1] introduced in September 1972. One result was that student population rose as some students came for only one semester in order to complete grade 12 or 13 requirements. A graduate tells us "By the fall of 1979, enrollment at W.C.I was well over 1300 students, coming from five different feeder schools in the area."

Another great change for students who had started at Weston in the 60s was the move, in September 1970, into the new school building. "Everything seemed to change with that move," writes Antanas Sileika, one of these graduates. "By now, our hair was as long as we liked and our skirts as short as we wanted. English teachers who had worn suits and ties in grade nine now spent the day in crumpled black T-shirts in order to teach drama. Stringed instruments were banished as too old-fashioned, so the orchestra became a band that employed only winds and percussion." This graduate reflected on the differences in life in both the old and new buildings. "We stepped into The Seventies Show, and had a sharp sense that the future might not be all that we had hoped it might be. Sure, we had a swimming pool now, but we had lost most of our windows, and none of the new ones opened. We were given personal liberty to follow individual timetables, but lost the sense of community that uniform classes gave. Our administrators became more humane, less authoritarian, along with the times, but our youthful hearts showed little gratitude."

Students entering grade nine did not have those memories of the old Collegiate. They accepted the new building and looked forward, some with trepidation, to new challenges. Kellie Dearman when she started at Weston was awed by the huge number of new faces. Her first memory comes "early on into my year in grade nine as a I was a terrified 'niner', clumsy, shy and nervous, and I remember my mortification when, in between classes, I stumbled up the stairs in the middle northern stairwell and landed unceremoniously at the feet of Duane Marchiori, the president of that year's student council."

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[1] The semester system adopted by many high schools in Canada divides the school year into two five-month periods or semesters. The first semester runs from early September until January 31 while the second starts on February 1 and ends in the third week of June. During the first five-month period (at a semestered school), students receive instruction from four different teachers during 80 minute periods each day and earn four credits in four different subjects. During the second semester, the same students study four different subjects, usually taught by different teachers than they had in the first semester, and earn an additional four credits for a total of eight credits per annum. In contrast, students at an unsemestered school start the school year in early September and receive instruction from eight different teachers during 40 minute periods for the entire school year. At the end of the school year, those students will have earned credits in eight subjects like those at a semestered school.

The first event up was Blue and White week, and the initiation of the grade nines. I remember the thrill and the horror of that week; trying to stay out of radar despite my hat and tie, watching my good friend, Laurrianne Buie, singing whilst standing in the middle of a lunchroom table, dressed from top to bottom in football padding… no jersey, just the shoulder pads, knee pads, helmet,, etc., all layered over her usual sloppy t-shirt and patched-up jeans. There were football games, cheerleaders, and blue and white day, of course, when most of us donned the school colours. Other early memories include the location of my first locker on the north side, eastern-most corridor, just outside the music room. I particularly remember those blasts of cold air that came in through the much-used school entrance just nearby."

One student particularly enjoyed the "many live theatrical productions put on by the school's theatre department." Beginning in grade nine, "I was in awe of the job our school did of pulling off *Mousetrap*, that famous Agatha Christie play. Our own stellar cast and hard-working crew did a fantastic job and piqued my interest in theatre. Along with my longtime friends Gail Ault and Mary DiMauro, I (Kellie Dearman) got involved in the spring theatrical production of *Dracula*. We worked in various capacities including set-design, props and costumes, while those more outwardly talented students learned their lines and practiced music for the pit band. It too was a startlingly good production, directed by theatre arts teacher John Hockins. *Dracula* was played magnificently by teacher Peter Miller, and the production also featured excellent student acting, an incredible set, great lighting, music and sound effects, and some fun special effects including flying bats and rolling fog. *Dracula* was filled to capacity for each of its three nights, and received standing ovations each night." Her involvement continued. In grade 10, "The first play up that fall was *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, a rather risqué production which was directed by Peter Miller, his first time directing at the school. I worked on costumes for that production, while Mary got on stage, playing one of four young students. Miss Brodie was marvelously acted by Debra McCort. In the spring we staged a huge, crazily successful theatrical production, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. It was a monster-sized musical, the like of which we had never seen before." These theatrical triumphs continued in grade 11, as they put on two one-act plays, *Black Comedy*, and *American Dream*. As usual, both were outstanding. And in the spring we staged another huge musical, *Oliver*. It was our theatrical department's largest undertaking ever as it included a huge cast and even larger chorus. The costuming, music, and set design set this performance above all others to that date."

Another graduate sees these musicals, and other changes, as aspects of a new spirit in the 1970s. 'The old high school variety shows gave way to musicals like *Oklahoma*, massive productions that mobilized the music and drama departments and filled the auditorium for three nights. The student council had a dedicated room, a boardroom that made us all feel very grown up. And the atmosphere we lost in the old classrooms was regained in the huge cafeteria, with a bank of windows along the West wall, and a door to ease the passage of the smokers who hung out in the back."

The school yearbook provides far more than a record of the year's events. As one student puts it, "My most poignant memory of grade nine was receiving my first yearbook. It was the 50th edition of the *Conning Tower*, a white soft-cover designed in typical mid-70s hand-drawn bubble lettering. The yearbook was my first serious passion in high school. I was completely smitten with that book: the irreverence, the candid pictures, the huge assortment of teams and clubs that I really knew nothing about. What I learned from that first yearbook was that we had an amazing swim team: both boys and girls were York Champs, and indeed they made a clean

sweep of all divisions for the first time in the history of the league; our hockey team won 11 of 12 games and also became York League Champions; 77/78 was the first year for volleyball at our school (at least in recent memory); our Ladies' Baseball won their York Championships; the Boys' Basketball team made it to the quarterfinals; and our soccer team made it to the finals of the All Ontario Newmarket Tournament;. I also discovered that, if you were interested, you could join a whole raft of other sporting and extracurricular activities. Mostly I was itching to be involved in the production of the yearbook itself. And get involved I did.

"Early into that 1977-78 school year, Mary, Gail and Kellie managed to find the yearbook office. We were welcomed by staff advisor, Mr. C. Jones, and by the editorial team of Susan Vella and Francesca Shaw, as well as Ed MacDonald. We joined them in the production of the 51st edition of the *Conning Tower*. Meanwhile in the yearbook office we were also having a great time. The funniest, goofiest people worked and played in Mr. Jones' office each afternoon. I learned a lot about layout and design, and spelling names properly, but I learned equally as much about the music of the mid-70s as I had been exposed to so far".

You never can tell what will happen when you get involved with a major non-academic school activity and the result can be a lot of fun. "I became yearbook editor that year, backed up by Susan Vella and Martin Proctor, who had by this time become the Mad Doodler. Martin turned me into a cartoon character, a cigar-smoking dictator named Killer Kellie. Unflattering posters of me screaming "Buy Yearbooks Now" were plastered up for a brief while all over the school's main hallways. (We did sell a lot of yearbooks!) Visibility of the yearbook was particularly high that year as Mr. D'Angelo's Grade 11 commercial art class did yearbook cover designs, the best of which were posted outside the main office (which at that time was in the middle hallway on the main floor). Jennifer Hughes was the winning designer, and with the help of Cathy Davis, Martin Proctor and all the other yearbook funnies, we produced a very fine yearbook." Kellie served as editor for another year, spending altogether four years working on the yearbook.

Perhaps the most popular extra-curricular activity continued to be sports and the school's distinguished record continued to shine. "As the football season progressed, we began to get hyped about our Senior team. By the end of the six-game season we were undefeated, even managing to beat our arch-rivals, East York, for the first time in five years. After beating York Memorial in the semi-finals, the finals were played on our home turf against East York. The final score was 10-0, and gave us the York Championship for the first time in over 25 years. The team was coached by Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Schmidt and captained by Jim Howie."

Other teams "continued to distinguish themselves. Our boys' Bantam Basketball team went 10-1, and was both York and TDIAA semi-finalists. Once again, our swim teams excelled, with both the Boys and Girls teams winning the York Championships, along with a host of other trophies. The Senior soccer team made it to the York Semis, and the finals of the All Ontario Invitational, as did the Junior team in their first year as a team. Our wrestling team also won a ton of medals!" Football games provide plenty of excitement, especially when a champion team is involved. In September of 1978, "Our Senior Ironmen would get a chance to defend their York Champions title. Our unofficial school mascot, that cuddly blue Sesame Street monster Grover, could be seen cheering on the team at every game. We all learned the words to our new anthem, Queen's "We are the Champions", which we bellowed out at each and every football game. And indeed our Senior team once again defeated East York to retain the York title!"

Weston's students have a long tradition of helping their community. "In November we participated in our yearly campaign to raise money for the United Way. Events included the Variety Show, International Dinner and the Egg-Eating Contest, where Brad Ryder managed to devour 27 raw eggs. Other fund-raising activities included the rollerskate-a-thon, numerous bake sales, a pie throwing contest and a car wash. In total we raised over $2,200 for the cause." In a following year, "During the United Way Campaign, the students of 5E distinguished themselves by breaking the world's "Bath Tub Pushing" record. There was also the buggy bash, and rose sales, along with hot dog sales during football games, and the always popular International Dinner."

What would school be without time just to play the fool? "The 1977-78 school year started with the usual antics. The highlight of Blue and White Week that year was Greaser Day. Poodle skirts and slicked back hair was drastically different from our usual sloppy styles. Most of us wore a uniform of painter pants or patched up jeans, some with Kodiak boots and lumber jackets. For girls, stripey t-shirts or lowly-buttoned blouses were the norm."

"Streaking" was something not even imagined in my school days, but like young people everywhere, students a Weston were influenced by what they saw on TV. Streaking was "at its peak during the mid-70s and, not to be outdone by those streaking across the stage at the Academy awards, I believe we had numerous streakers both outside and in, during football games."

Music has always made a great contribution to education at Weston and also to enjoyment outside of school hours. This tradition continued during the seventies. "Our music department gained a new teacher, Mr. Johnston, who started up the Stage Band and the Brass Ensemble to compliment the Junior and Senior Bands, and the Orchestra already run by Mr. John Milosh"

The end of the decade was marked by a great tragedy. The words of one student speak for many: "on January 25, 1979, our school, and indeed our whole community, suffered a loss than none of us will forget. It was Outdoor Education Day. Pretty much the entire school population was out on field trips at a variety of cross-country and downhill ski resorts within bus range of the school. On the way to Blue Mountain (It was heading for Moonstone ski resort), one of our many buses was involved in a head-on collision with a tractor-trailer. The bus was cleaved in two and four students were killed. Many others suffered various head injuries, some more severe than others. Arms and legs were broken, and the entire busload of students suffered trauma. Because the accident happened near Barrie, students were taken mainly to the Barrie Hospital, but others with more serious injuries were airlifted to Sunnybrook and to Sick Kids.

As news began to trickle into the city, panic broke out amongst our parents, friends and families. Like most families, my mother knew that I was going skiing that day, but she had no real idea of exactly where I was, which was cross-country skiing at some resort whose name I have forgotten. There were no real lists of who was on what bus, and very few of us considered carrying identification with us. In the city, families were frantically trying to figure out if their children were on the bus that was hit, and the task of identifying all the kids, injured and uninjured, began in earnest. On our own outing we heard about the accident via the radio, but we had no way of knowing which of our friends had lost their lives.

That day we lost Patty Harris, a member of our student council, and an active participant in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including various sporting teams, and our theatre department. We also lost Scott Cameron, Seth Gruber and Mike Hurley. Three more students, Brent Newsome, Van Sanders and Robert Scrace suffered severe head injuries.

Back at the school that day, the administration tried to bring some order to the chaos. As the afternoon wore on, buses began returning to the school, filled with traumatized youth, many of which had never dealt with mortality before. We arrived back at the school at twilight. Then the full impact of the tragedy began to hit. As our bus pulled up, throngs of worried parents waited for us to see who would come off the bus. Television crews with bright lights filmed us as we slowly filed off and were slowly led through the mass of people filling the hallways of the school. In the auditorium we each signed in. By this time news and rumours had begun to circulate as to who had lost their lives that day. The school was filled with crying teenagers trying to come to grips with this new, unbelievable reality.

Over the next week, we trooped to various funeral parlours to offer what support we could to grieving families, and to say goodbye to our fellow friends and students. Many received grief counseling in the school. We held a memorial service in the auditorium, at which time a letter was read by the family of Patty Harris. We listened with awe and wonder as the family drew us to their hearts and helped us begin to heal. The letter ended "If there is any lesson to be learned from this, it is that together we are strong and that together we can bounce as high as we are now low. Do this for Patty."

In the weeks and months that followed we slowly welcomed back our friends, some on crutches, some with casts, some with head bandages. Each new returnee reminded us of the frailty of life and of what we had lost, but they also helped us to continue to heal as their lives began to return to normal. During that school year, we also said goodbye to three other students or former students who lost their lives Dave Burns, John Gnesutta and Ron White.

But being young as we were, life could not be put on hold, and we did as the Harris Family suggested, and "bounced back high."

A graduate from 1967, and an employee of the Board of Education, also has vivid memories. "I remember, as if it was yesterday, the day of the Weston bus accident on January 25th, 1979. I was working in the Program Office at the time and as soon as we received the first notification of the accident, I pulled my boss, the Superintendent of Program out of a meeting with Trustees to inform him what had happened. He, together with the Board's solicitor, immediately departed for Barrie. One of the supervisory officers was immediately dispatched to Weston Collegiate and I was given the onerous task of keeping a telephone line open at all times between him, located in the school office, and I, located in the Director's Office at the Board Office, not an easy task when using multi-line telephones and with everyone trying to call the school and the office to obtain up-to-date information and details. We were all in shock as the news continued to filter in throughout the day. We all knew many of the students and staff members involved. It was particularly difficult for me as it was my alma mater and so many of my friends since childhood lived in the Weston area. I lived one street away from one of the most seriously injured students. When I finally made it home very late that evening I remember sitting in my living room, the tears that I had managed to hold back throughout that horrible day finally flowing uncontrollably, both from exhaustion and for the families who had been affected in so many ways that day and for years to come."

Here is one graduate's summary of her school experience. "I think many people who took advantage of what Weston was about during the late seventies and early eighties would agree that the school offered a fine array of academic, arts, technical and sporting opportunities to us. I managed to graduate from Weston with a staggering 9 credits in Art alone. Years later, I learned from conversations with others just how fortunate we were to have such an outstanding array of art teachers and programs to participate in, not to mention all the other practical and creative electives which Weston kept on the schedule. I'm sure that many of us went on to expand on the things that we learned during our stay there."

Another graduate from the same period admits that she was a troubled and troublesome student, but has great praise for the school and for one teacher in particular. "I wish to relate a story about Diedre Lussow (Mrs. D. Lussow on staff from 1975 to 2001). She was my industrial design teacher while I was at Weston (78-82). She knew just how to motivate a rather socially awkward, learning disabled, artistically talented child. She would tell me I couldn't make certain projects. Not that I was not allowed to, but rather I was unable to complete the projects due to a lack of skill and/or ability. At the time, that was just what I needed to hear. Some kids might have given up by picking something easier, but not me, and Mrs. Lussow knew it. That challenge was motivation in its finest form as far as I was concerned.

"I learned an incredible amount from Mrs. Lussow; designing, work ethic, problem solving, using my strengths and not dwelling on my weaknesses. Most importantly though was that being/thinking differently was not a bad thing. It was just that, being different, and that could be a very good thing indeed. She earned the love and respect of a willful and difficult to like child. More than any other instructor at Weston, Diedre Lussow believed in me. She was instrumental in the shaping of the person I have become. She is one of my mentors and a friend still."

In their recollections about their teachers and programs these two graduates reflect an appreciation that is repeated by graduates in every decade of the school's history. The stories of these and other students show that Weston Collegiate has been blessed with principals and teachers who have displayed sympathy and understanding while at the same time challenging students to achieve their best.

Another graduate muses philosophically about the generations that have passed through both the old and new school buildings. "Mine was lucky to have seen the transition." While students change somewhat in appearance and behaviour, for many, "high school is still the most stressful and memorable time of life." Those memories become part of our being. "Each of us remembers his or her Weston in its glory and ignominy, its particularity in history and architecture. Each of us was lucky, too, because Weston has usually been a safe place. We had a chance to be part of the shifting cast on the stage of Weston CI. Most of us remember our roles back there with a mixture of fondness and embarrassment, and most of us wouldn't give up those memories for the world."

1977 Theatre Arts Production
Dracula
Source: Peter Miller

1977 Theatre Arts Production
The Prime of Miss Jean Prodie
Source: Peter Miller

1977 Theatre Arts Production

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum

Source: Peter Miller

Chapter 6

The Eighties

A graduate whose recollections span the seventies and eighties decades has fond memories of those days. The 1980-81 school year is most memorable to me because we managed to get some colour pages into the yearbook. We could finally properly illustrate blue and white week! The yearbook was edited that year by the Mad Doodler himself, Martin Proctor. That editor certainly made an impression because another graduate writes The Mad Doodler and friends lent their art and poetry to our collected memories, and for the first time, the yearbook also brought colour to Weston's history – eight exciting and memorable pages to be pawed at, chuckled over and scribbled on.

Weston showed its prowess in sports, as well, with several championship teams. Football games were still well attended, and hordes of students cheered enthusiastically for all our champions from the sidelines. They had plenty to cheer about because The Senior Ironmen won the York Championship for the third straight year, and the Junior team was also victorious, winning for the first time in 12 years. Our cross-country team also did extremely well that fall, with the Senior Boys winning the York Memorial meet. Maria Cellar, Pat Cerullo and Lorne Cunliffe gave great individual performances. Other championship teams were the Junior Hockey, Rugby for its second straight year, and the Wrestling team for the first time in 11 years. As well, The Senior Girls and all three Boys Swim teams won the Yorks, with further Championship trophies coming at the Toronto District Invitationals. By the 1981 school year, computers were introduced to the swim meets, speeding up the tabulation of team results, if not the swimmers themselves, as various Swim team members continued to be York, Toronto and Ontario champs. The Track and Field and Cross-country Running teams had solid showings, and Susie Tyler took us all the way to the Ontario Championships in senior Gymnastics in '79 -'80 and won! Soon afterwards, two successful teams headed for the Ontario Finals for the first time, as both the Downhill Ski Team, now numbering 70 members, and the Senior Boys' Hockey Team took their turns at representing Weston in the provincial showdowns.

Another graduate took great pride in helping teams. "One of my many memories would be my time spent working with the wrestling team. My best friend, Davia (Wise) Barber and I (Christine [Gribben] Cairns) helped to score and time-keep at the matches, along with cheering them on whenever we could. Okay, okay, I admit it. We joined because of the good-looking guys on the team. Can you blame us? Mr. Williams was the coach at the time, and a great one at that." Combining assistance and activity proved even better with unexpected results. "My best venture was the cheerleading team. I started when it was a Varsity Team, headed by Giselle Crane. By the end of my first year, we managed

to convince Kirth Murray (one of the more popular seniours) to join our all-girl team.We convinced a few more football players and wrestling members to join us the following year. By my third year, we had a full co-ed cheerleading team. Our team flourished with Olga Dimitropoulas as our Captain, who choreographed our routines along with Krissy Aoki. Of course, we wouldn't have been as successful as we were without the dedication received from team members Carrie Ford, Leslie Mitobe, Tanya Lee, Laura and Kathy Studley, Rob Lapadula, Sean Hanna, Nino D'Avolio, Klaus Durst, Danny Panagiotidis, Glen Sodie, Richard Tomlinson and many, many more. In my fourth year, I was fortunate to be elected team captain. It was a wonderful and challenging time of my life. It's not easy to get these people to a 7:30 a.m. practice everyday! That same year, I was nominated and presented with a Leadership Award by the Alumni. It was extremely flattering to receive such an award. In hindsight, I realize now that by participating in extra curricular activities at school, it taught me how to work with others as a team, as well as how to lead such teams. Most importantly, it gave me a chance to develop some of the best friendships I've ever had."

Many Weston students had other interests besides sports. "Non-athletic types could be found making their own fun in the science fiction club, the TV production club, the chess club, the choir, and the bands. The list of extra-curricular activities continued to grow! Another graduate writes that "the arts also thrived at Weston at the beginning of the decade. The theatre and art departments continued with their cycle of one-act plays in the fall, and were joined by the music department for a musical in the spring. First came *A Private Affair* and *Mind of a Killer*, followed by the memorable *Anything Goes* with Anita Rossi giving a stand-out performance as Reno Sweeney, and in the fall, a play called *The Curse of an Aching Heart*. That one sounds like a Victorian melodrama, but artistic types did not always look to the past. We later gave our all to the uniquely Canadian musical, *Cruel Tears*, as a departure from our wonderfully choreographed, and much more extravagant, musicals of the past. The TV Production Club brought the *Weston Report* to the cafeteria, and subjected hundreds of students to the unappetizing antics of Lorne Cunliffe, Todd Stewart and Kermit the Frog in the wildly popular segment *Munch the Muppets*."

High school students sometimes have to learn to work under difficult conditions. "My final year at WCI was 1981-82. By this time I (Kellie Dearman) was looking to the future, with only one semester left of full-time high school. I continued to spend quite a bit of time in that little room near the library working on the yearbook, which was edited that year by Cathy Davis. It was a very fine yearbook – the culmination of all that we had as a team learned over the years. Highlights of the year included the annoyance of having asbestos removed from various sections of the building. We held some of our classes that year up the road at Weston Memorial, squeezed into little tiny desks! The football teams finally came back down to earth that year, but the swim teams and the wrestling teams again had stellar years."

Giving help to the community continued in this decade and, at the beginning, the fund-raising had a special meaning. "Still reeling from the tragic bus accident during Outdoor Education Day in January 1979, the school's entire population pulled solidly together for our Annual Charity Drive and raised money for a recipient very close to our collective heart: The Simcoe County Rescue Squad, who helped so many of our friends during that horrific time. Our drive and spirit created many innovative events during this campaign, from every kind-of-a-thon and message delivery service, through the sale of the enduring and endearing WCI beer steins, to the popular and exuberant Car Smash and the following year's

Wheelchair Push. Even the Kissing Bandit got into the spirit, fleetingly making his debut, and just as quickly his demise, during the '79-'80 drive as Student Council President Marija Celar put a kibosh on the surprising fundraising event. We raised almost twice the amount previous drives had amassed – a healthy $5,500. With Dominion Fine Foods offering a generous additional contribution, we were proud to present the Rescue Squad with a cheque totaling $6,000 in our first of two consecutive drives for our rescuers." After the second drive for the Simcoe County Rescue Squad, the students turned their fund-raising exploits to the new Variety Village, a cause they had supported in previous years.

Social activities, especially dances, and the vagaries of young peoples' fashions helped to balance the hard grind of studies. "The Prom moved from the Top of Toronto to the palatial Trillium Room at Ontario Place opening it up to students beyond the senior classes; and dances with every wild, teen-friendly theme were held in the school cafeteria, which proved too small on occasion to hold all the enthusiastic Hustlers. The student body wore well its feathered hair, flannel shirts, and puffy white Weston jackets as we reached the end of the Disco era, and headed into the punk bands and skinny ties of the 80s. After a moratorium on school trips was lifted, groups set out anew to New York City and returned to the cultural leadership program at Pine River. In a nod to the most popular duo of the time, in November that year WCI instituted Hoser Day to salute SCTV's Bob and Doug Mackenzie. Blue and White Week again hosted a vast selection of special days with Pajama Day, 50s Day and the new Freakers' Day, along with the spin-off Freakers' Ball, being some of the more colourful. While student dress had resembled something akin to a Hoser meets Charlie's Angels union at the end of the 70s, astoundingly hair got bigger in the 80s, while everything else got narrower, welcoming the upper-class punk and electronic eras of music and style. Weston's student body was facing considerable change, but we would leave it now to the new generation to continue the spirit.

"While students grow and change during their years at school, they live in a world constantly changing around them, sometimes not for the better." By 1981, the recession in Canada was hitting home at Weston. Attendance was down at WCI sporting events as students went to work at part-time jobs to bring in extra money. "Our spirit was tested as outside our campus the world was in turmoil. Cancer-stricken hero Terry Fox had died over the summer. In February of 1982, we again lost one of our own when friend and classmate John Hogan died in a car accident near Weston. Further, during the school year, assassination attempts were made on the Pope, Ronald Reagan and the Queen, as well as a successful attempt on Nobel Peace Prize-winner Anwar Sadat. In one year, the world had changed, and the students changed with it."

Towards the end of one graduate's school experience, "transformation continued apace as our beloved King of Rock n' Roll Assemblies, Vice-Principal "Doc" Fraser, moved on to Runnymede Collegiate. The Inglis sign off the Gardiner Expressway discontinued sharing appealing quotes, depriving Mr. Kelly's English classes of a popular start to the lesson. Former vice-principal Mrs. Carolyn Collyer became our new principal, the first female principal of the school, and long-time swim coach Paul Nicholls retired; yet Weston was back into musicals in a big way, staging two over the coming year. And Donna Morton and Kirth Murray were announced as the first two well-deserving recipients of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation Awards. The building required changes as well, because asbestos insulation was being recognized as a threat to health. Consequently, "vast sections of the building were blocked off for weeks

at a time while teams removed asbestos from the ceilings. Portables to hold the displaced students blossomed behind the school below the track and field."

WCI celebrated its 125th anniversary in October 1982, and students had a part in this event. A graduate remembers "homeroom students cleaned and decorated their classrooms to welcome the visiting alumni. As WCI marked its momentous anniversary, generations of students came together to celebrate what was and what could be, with shouts of 'That's my mom!' and 'Can you believe those sideburns?' accompanying the retrospective slide show."

This graduate, like so many others, appreciates what WCI did for her. "Like most people, I walked away from high school with hardly a glance back, ready to face the future and eager to put the past behind me. Despite what this article may lead you to believe, I DID have a life at WCI outside the yearbook room. I belonged sporadically to the theatre department, the music department, the track team and the ISCF club. So I'd like to say thank you to these people who loved and befriended me during those times, and who helped me learn so many lessons, some of which I think I am STILL learning today. As a graduate from a much earlier period, I would agree fully with this conclusion particularly the fact that I am still learning."

School Dance 1988
Left to Right: Christine Gribben, Flen Soady, Fabi Tempio, George Grigoriadis

1985 Theatre Arts Production
The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew
Source: Peter Miller

1983 Theatre Arts Production
The Sound of Music
Source: Peter Miller

Chapter 7

The Nineties

One graduate begins his recollections with a general view, "What a decade the 1990s proved to be, not only for Canada, but for Weston CI as well. WCI has gone through many changes, both in the academics as well as the building itself. Despite all these changes, we still have one thing in common, we attended Weston during this unforgettable decade." Here are some of the big events that made it unforgettable: the Canadian Referendum, Operation Desert Storm (the first Iraqi war), O. J. Simpson and the trial of the century, and of course the Toronto Mega-City merger. "Another change should be noted because it was so far-reaching. At the end of 1997, the City of York ceased to exist and the municipality that had been Weston became part of the City of Toronto. The school became officially a member of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). The TDSB educates over 300,000 students in more than 500 schools, which makes it one of the largest school systems in all of North America.Quite rightly, Principal Tony Kerins exclaims, we've come a long distance since the days when this school was administered by the small Town of Weston Board of Education.

This graduate entered the school at the beginning of the decade and had a gentle introduction to higher education. "During my first year I got to meet my home room teacher, my guidance counsellor, and my grade 9 Geography teacher. Imagine my surprise when I found out that they were all one and the same. Rev. Gerry Godsoe was my mentor during my first couple of years at Weston. He was the counsellor for all the grade nine students in the early 90s. He was the man who pointed many students down the road that would make them look back at their years at Weston and say, "Thank You." I say thanks to him for turning me from a boy who didn't care about school into a man that loved every minute of school."

One source of his affection began in his second year at WCI. "One of the classes I took from Grade Ten through to Ontario Academic Credit (OAC – the new Grade Thirteen) was Dramatic Arts. Through these classes I learned how to put myself into someone else's shoes and how to force myself to relax. These skills taught to us (those who took Drama) by Mr. Peter Miller have served us well, not only in the theatre, but also in everyday life. Thank you Mr. Miller."

Some of his recollections leave questions hanging. "We tend to remember the events that happened at WCI while we were in the building. A few of these include a car parked in the cafeteria, one Vice Principal shot at with a starter pistol, and unfortunately the passing of one of our own. The latter of

these occurred when we lost Mr. Andrew Cushnie on the basketball court. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched."

Social life with dances and interest in clothing fashions unite these students with those of earlier decades. And they provided "happy memories at WCI. How about the time we had our first ever Sock Hop? If memory serves me correctly, it was held on a Friday night. During the school day almost all of the students had dressed the part in one way or another. Whether it was actually dressing up in classic 50s and 60s costume, getting their hair done at the cosmetology classroom, or both! When the dance arrived there were ladies of all ages in poodle skirts and guys with grease in their hair everywhere you looked. The music was great, but my favorite part of the night was the Soda Shop set up in the staff lounge. As one of the few students who were lucky enough to volunteer that night, I enjoyed watching staff, students, and a community share the dance floor at the same time. For one night we were all students of the '60s enjoying some of the best music of that time."

The arts continued to flourish and early in the 90s this activity was combined with community service. The event "was the Drama Club's production of *The Phantom of Weston*. This production was written, produced, and directed by a young David Munro. He and his co-directors (Darryl Hanna and Julie Bot) along with a cast and crew of students raised approximately $500 for the Weston branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. It took us months of rehearsal and set design to get it done right, but we had fun. Unfortunately, like all things, this too had to come to an end. Those of us that were in this particular production formed friendship bonds that very few of us, if any, will ever forget. We even talked about doing a sequel to *The Phantom of Weston*. However we all thought that it would not have the same kind of magic that the original had."

Some students could feel themselves part of a wider world in ways not experienced before. This recollection begins with a question: "Did you know that we had an entrant in the 1993 North American Cosmetology Skills Olympics? Well, we did. Mary Scott made WCI proud that day when she won a Gold Medal for her efforts. Both Mary and her model, Melany Frank, went to Louisville, Kentucky to take part in the competition. Way to go Mary!" On a more academic level "Some of the biggest changes in Weston's academics came when the school introduced four new elective study programs. Those programs were Japanese, Dentistry, Travel and Tourism, and the International Bachlauriet (Baccalaureate) (IB for short) program. "Along with this prestigious IB program, Weston remains a fully composite school offering technical, business and academic options."

All of us who have lived through those decades are well aware of the amazing changes in technology. Principal Kerins tells us that "All rooms in the school have been electronically wired through a fibre-optic network with Internet and Intranet access capabilities among others. Thanks to an infusion of over 100 Pentium computers we have taken a giant leap forward in the provision of access to a broad range of information technologies for our students as we prepare to enter the twenty-first century. Young people take these things for granted, but for old timers (like me), these changes are breathtaking." Here is one student's experience at WCI. "Finally, during the 1990s, Mr. Bill Mason's T.V. Production Club was able to give the *Conning Tower* a run for its money. For the years of 1992 and 1993 we were proud to bring the students our first and only versions of, *The Year in Review* video. These were completely student run

We took video footage from the whole year and condensed it into one video. By the end of each year we were tripping over the various tapes used to make these videos. A lot of sleepless hours went into making these videos which the student body could buy for the price of a blank tape. However, when most of our club graduated in 1993 and 1994 the remaining members had lost interest in the video yearbook. Once again the *Conning Tower* would be King of student memories." That is a fine old tradition and it is good to see it continue.

Tony Kerins reported that in 1996, the school had 96 staff and 1355 students. The school did well in sports, with the Senior Football Ironmen finishing first in their division of the TSSAA and going on to the TSSAA finals in November. The junior team also made the playoffs. He tells us proudly that "Mr. Nicholl's cross country squad won the York title, the girls' basketball team and the junior boys' volleyball team performed brilliantly in their seasons." In another vein we learn that "the Weston Jazz Ensemble has been a big hit performing in the community." In 1998, Mr. Kerins again reports athletic success with the senior football team capturing the league title and wins in "cross country, soccer, cricket and swim championships." School life, you can see, continues to be varied and full.

The semester system that had been introduced in 1972 began its phase out during this decade. Mr. Kerins indicated that the de-semestering process proceeded in stages and was not an abrupt change in any given year. According to Tony, one could say that the de-semestering process started in September 1993 when the IB program was introduced because the IB Program was never semestered. In the mid-1990s, a provincial government initiative directed Ontario High Schools to "de-stream" grade nine students and direct them into "academic or applied streams". WCI responded by "de-semestering grade nine and a year or so later grade 10 was also de-semestered. The de-semestering process was completed at WCI early in the new millenium after Tony had left the School in 1999.

The graduate contributor in thanking a teacher carries on another Weston tradition. "On a personal note I would like to thank Mr. Bill Mason for showing not only me but many students before me the magic that is television production. He gave each and every one of us a direction in life. Most of us ended up taking some kind of media studies after Weston. Some of us even went on to Seneca College to study Audio/Visual Productions, just like our mentor Bill. So for giving me and many other students a future, I want to say, "THANK YOU Bill Mason!"

WCI's Championship Cricket Team 1998
Source: R. Ali

1994 Theatre Arts Production
The Ultimate Message
Source: Peter Miller

Chapter 8

Two Thousand to Two Thousand Seven

WCI began this half-century with a long-standing and traditional administrative structure of principal, vice principal, directors and department heads. The latter, who reported to the principal, had a degree of authority over classroom teachers in their departments. But a new century seemed an opportune time to change this structure, although how this change would improve education for students is not evident. In September 2000, "a report was submitted to the [Toronto District School] Board from the Secondary School Position of Responsibility Project Team proposing a new model for such positions" is the wording of the official statement. Consultations and submissions from schools took place over the next two years and the target date for implementing the "new model" was set as 1 September 2003. Department heads were replaced by Curriculum Leaders (CL) with provision also for Assistant Curriculum Leaders (ACL) where student numbers warranted. Anyone with a burning curiosity to know all the details should look at the official report. For purposes of this history, we shall attempt to summarize the changes made at WCI. As of 2003-04 there were to be Curriculum Leaders for Numeracy/Literacy, Athletics/Arts (plus two ACLs), Communications/Human Studies (two ACLs), International Baccalaureate, Math/Science (one ACL), Business Technology Visual Arts (one ACL), Student Support (one CL), and School Resource. As you can see, department names have changed e.g. Physical Education and Music come under Athletics/Arts, English and "Moderns" under Communications/Human Studies, and Guidance under Student Support.

The final decade for this history belongs to students still attending Weston Collegiate Institute or recently graduated. They are now in the 21st century, beginning the third century for this historic school. Yet, the student-teacher relationship is still central to young people's education and the contributions of WCI's teachers to their students' development remains impressive. What follows are the tributes of three graduates who attended during this seven-year period, and the variety of these two expressions is a tribute to the character of the school, its students, teachers and administrators.

One graduate looks at the wider scene – growth. "At Weston Collegiate it seems as if only after you have graduated do you begin to realize the amount of growth one has experienced. The quality of this growth is one that many of us students at Weston take for granted. Appreciation and pride are also two key aspects that every WCI student feels, but is too afraid to show them while they still attend WCI. Sweet memories of friendships, personal struggles, growth in knowledge and invaluable skills gained during our time at

WCI seems intertwined with the passionate teachers and peers that shaped our lives. Four years at WCI feels like such a long journey because of the rich experience it provides. Despite the suffocating heat of summer, the lack of windows, the unnecessarily pulled fire alarms, the miniature flood many experienced early in September 2005, Weston students have been able to disperse the humid air with their joyful laughter and spoken words of poetry."

Both graduates agree that appreciation really comes with the maturity of finishing your years at WCI. "You always read about how some recent high school students rave about their amazing teachers, their mentors, their inspirations and how they have been completely opened to a whole new world by the tireless efforts of the people who stand before a chalkboard everyday." This student then singles out a particular teacher, one who taught history (a subject very dear to the heart of some of us old timers), but the impact of this teacher could be found in almost any of the high school courses.

"For me, one WCI teacher sticks out in particular and probably will for the rest of my adult life. Claudia Santos has taught me European history for two years, and only now I have realized how much I've learned from her. I'm not going to get nostalgic and talk about the time Ms. Santos nurtured me and opened my eyes to explore the mysterious world before me. She never did any of those things. Instead, she was an excellent history teacher. She never expected us to learn the most random names, tediously memorize "important" dates and recite them on command, thus teaching us the importance of diligence and facts. She never forced me regurgitate all of that again at test time to receive a decent mark. Ms. Santos taught me to think.

"I don't think there ever was a teacher that pushed me in such a delicate manner to examine the facts, analyze them and form my own opinion. Besides Alex Trebek, who really cares when the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred (October 22, 1962) if you don't now why it happened or how it has impacted similar situations today? Further on in my historical studies, I was asked to scratch my head once in a while and examine the world around me in present day. Ms. Santos took history off the pages, and proved that nothing that had ever begun ever ended and that we're all still living the consequences of historic events. After all, even the most recent global political conflicts bore roots well before the 20th century, including the conflicts in the Middle East, the Caucasus region and the Pacific Rim. Most importantly, Ms. Santos taught me how to disagree, and maintain credibility. Those who disagree, specifically young people, tend to get labeled "unruly teenagers" looking for some place to just talk and seem intelligent. Ms. Santos stretched (stressed) the importance of supporting one's argument. Now, I wasn't told to learn facts: I wanted to prove the legitimacy of my opinion and knowing these facts, often the breaking point of any history lesson, was vital for me to open my mouth and not sound ridiculous. Opening one's mouth and having supporting argument seems like quite an adult thing to do. So I guess that makes us, well, adults.

"I hadn't realized how much I had learned from Ms. Santos until today, in fact. I was watching an interview with Ted Kennedy on recent events involving, for the most part, the United States and her foreign and domestic policies. Kennedy reflected on the Cold War: the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Korean War, and Vietnam. I actually knew what he was talking about! I noted the discrepancies in his arguments and critically listened to his words. It was my own magic moment, when he spoke of Che Guevara's calls for "100 more Vietnams" and found myself wondering why anyone would want two Vietnams, let alone 100. I was astounded: was I an involved and informed – adult?

"Ms. Santos never opened up a new world for us. She showed us what a complex world we live in, onethat stretches beyond the present moment far back into history. You have to know where you're coming from to know where you're going, and Ms. Santos allowed me to find out where I come from, where my government comes from and where the people I'm dealing with come from too, not just geographically but ideologically. One can't forget that Ms. Santos never took a numerical approach to History. As History in general is a rather bloody ordeal, death tolls are a common surfacing issue in numerous disagreements between two ideologies. She always reminded us of the human aspect of History, that people died for something and it was important to remember what. My experience at WCI with Ms. Santos is unforgettable. That's good, I guess, because History is all about learning from mistakes of others. And, before you stand up for what you know is right, you first have to know. "

In the five decades that this history celebrates, the town of Weston has changed almost beyond recognition and so has the Collegiate evolved, yet without losing its central aim to educate. At the outset of this half-century, the town was a small, self-contained community with its own municipal government and administration (including a school board), commercial, industrial, social, and cultural life and institutions. Most young people tended to centre their attention on the home, church, and school. They could find summer jobs in the community on farms, in shops or in factories and employment after graduation was almost guaranteed. The world seemed a safe and predictable place despite warfare (e.g. Korea) and tensions arising from the Cold War. Knowledge of world events came from radio, books, newspapers, magazines, and the beginnings of television. The extent of changes in the school, some of which reflect changes in the surrounding community, is evident from the following account by a graduate of 2006.

"The past few years have been a testimony to the triumphs and obstacles WCI students and staff have been experiencing. These years are the ones in which academic achievement has continued to be a quality of WCI alongside the incredible athletic and volunteer work conquests achieved by Weston students. A composite school that provides choice in education, WCI continues to offer commercial and technical education, art education and various academic forms of education including the International Baccalaureate, which has grown tremendously in numbers. WCI has recognized, with the aid of its devoted guidance department, that Weston students coming from their diverse backgrounds in every sense of the word, require the power of choice in what they are learning. However, despite financial cut backs imposed on the TDSB [Toronto District School Board] and various other provincial changes in education, Weston has tried to accommodate a smooth transition period for students into post-secondary education, apprenticeships or the work force. The double cohort of 2003 was a hurricane of stress and fear as Ontario Academic Credit (OAC) grade 13 and grade 12 students across Ontario graduated together.* Competition in programs startled graduating students who had to face the drastic upheaval and unexpected push from the nest of Weston Collegiate Institute. Yet the double cohort was not as horrible as predicted. Two years later and another curve ball was sent flying into the lives of students – the elimination of calculus as a grade 12 course was announced. The double cohort seemed reasonable to some since the elimination of OAC meant one year less of high school and one year more for a head start, but the end of offering calculus seems simply ridiculous. The shock of encountering calculus at the first year university level is not something that students should face. Calculus is an integral part of many science, math, business and technical programs, and students having a basic understanding of calculus are better prepared to understand andrecognize the different aspects of their studies not to mention giving them a head start in the math..

*The Ontario government decided to reduce the number of years for the completion of high school education from 5 to 4 and that meant the elimination of Grade 13. The phasing out of Grade 13 was completed in 2003, when Grade 12 and Grade 13 students throughout Ontario graduated together and became eligible to enter post-secondary school institutions in unprecedented numbers. This event became known as the "double cohort of 2003." Editor's note.

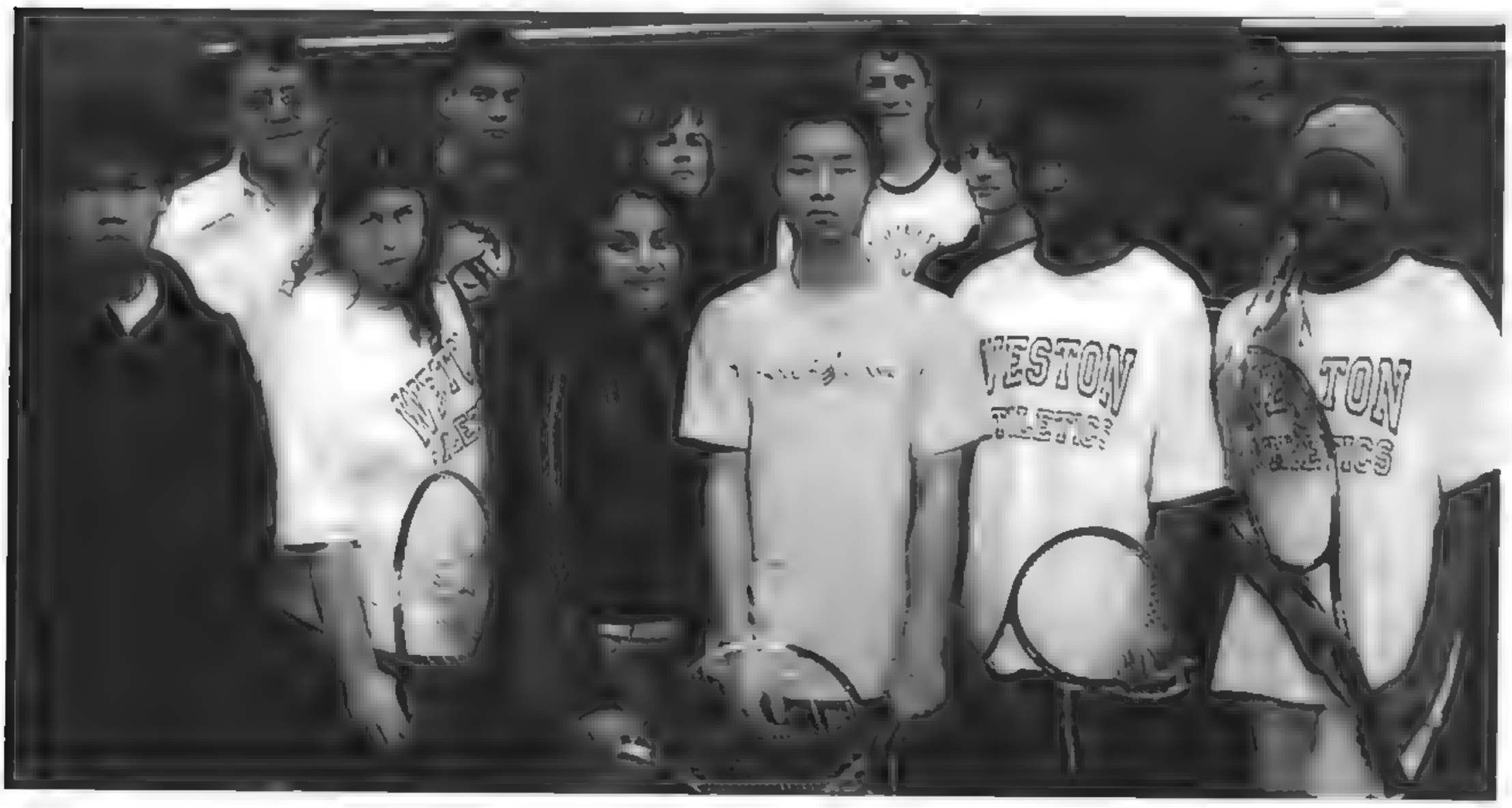
Every year students vote on whether or not to have uniforms. The musicals and theatre productions that are extremely memorable and rewarding to watch still continue with such excellent examples as *A Raisin in the Sun*. The high quality of the musical program is indicated by the fact that the choir, jazz band and concert band all won first place awards in the Festivals of Music competition in Washington, DC, in April 2007.

"In the realm of athletics, WCI was proud to gain the championship for the girls' rugby team who played one of the most challenging, emotionally tense, and exciting games yet against the team that beat them the year before: Newtonbrook. The swim team and the basketball teams at Weston continue their push for success." Among other athletic achievements, Weston won the Tier Two Football Championship in November 2006 and the Hockey Championship in March 2007. Track and field is also another phenomenal activity at Weston with student athletes making a mark for themselves and the school at Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA), receiving scholarships to universities and passing the torch to the next generation of Weston Iron ladies and men.

The past few years have also seen inspiring students being recognized for either their community involvement and/or academics by both the Weston community and the outside community. In a span of five years Weston has fostered two TD Canada Trust Bank Scholarship recipients, more than two National Millennium Scholarship recipients, over four Provincial Millennium Scholarship recipients and so many more.

And times have changed. Walls have been re-painted; students have come innocent and fresh and have graduated hungry for the outside world. Meanwhile, WCI has learned to adapt, to change and to accommodate its students. In a world that demands change and in a city that thrives on social complexity, the role of youth has come with more expectations. Weston does not hinder development but actually prepares its students to face the real world. Students know this as a fact. WCI's Iron ladies and men represent its new face of diversity, an impressionist painting with strokes of Caribbean, African, European and Asian ethnicities. Empowered by our roles, we all have something to say we have succeeded in as students whether it's music, art, dance, youth advocacy, academics, charity athletics or community service. Yet, despite the locker break-ins or lack of windows in our classrooms, Weston students live and become stronger. With teachers that support us, friendly students we can rely on and the willpower to survive, working to support ourselves, staying out of trouble and all the other complications and obstacles we face in Toronto become natural and easy for us to overcome. So who are we? We are exactly what we are, Iron students. Why? Because we know how to survive. We know how to turn the windowless silent rooms and hallways into spaces for discussion. We know how to stick together, support each other and advocate for our needs. We are leaders and followers. We are survivors. We are citizens. We are today's generation of WCI students.

Mr. Chang's Drama Club - 2004
Source: R. Ali



Weston C.I. Tennis Team - 2005

Mr. Ali and Mr. Khan with WCI Cricketers – 2005
Source: R. Ali

Chapter 9

Principals, Vice-Principals and Staff 1957–2007

Since the Centennial celebrations of October 18, 19 and 20, 1957, the following persons have served as principals of Weston Collegiate & Vocational School (WCVS) – renamed Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI) in 1965:

Ernest H.G. Worden, BA, MC	1936 – 1958
C. Wesley Christie, BA	1958 – 1969
W. Harris Hill, B Comm	1969 – 1975
Frank G. Irving, BA	1975 – 1982
Carolyn A. Collyer, BA, M Ed	1982 – 1987
Larry J. Rogers, BA, MA	1987 – 1996
A.J. "Tony" Kerins, BA, M Ed	1996 – 1999
Sharon W. List, BA, M Ed	1999 – 2002
Libert Castillo, BPHE, B Ed	2002 – 2005
Angela Petitti, BA, B Ed	2005

A brief biographical sketch of each Principal is presented hereunder, followed by:
(a) a chronological listing of Vice-Principals (1950-2007)
(b) an alphabetical listing of Teachers (1957-2007)
(c) an alphabetical listing of Administrative and Secretarial Staff (1957-2007)
(d) an alphabetical listing of Caretaker and Maintenance Staff (1957-2007)

These lists were compiled from the programs (1957-2006) which the School prints each year for its annual Commencement Ceremonies.

Ernest H.G. Worden, MC, BA

Ernest Worden was born in Acton, Ontario in 1893 and graduated from Guelph High School in 1912. He then enrolled in the Honour Science program of McMaster University which at that time was located in Toronto. Before completing his degree, Ernie joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment in which he served with distinction in both France and Greece during World War I. He was wounded in France in July 1917, and was subsequently awarded the Military Cross for valour. During the latter part of the War, Ernest saw service in Salonika and Bulgaria where he was mentioned in a number of dispatches.

At the end of World War I, Ernest taught school in Guelph before returning to University. He completed his BA degree and in his graduating year, was awarded the Governor General's medal. He then embarked on a teaching career that brought him to Beamsville, Windsor and finally Weston in 1926.

In 1925, Ernest married Frances Margaret Plant of Guelph. From 1926 to 1936 he not only taught Science at Weston High and Vocational School (WHVS) but also coached football and hockey teams and strongly supported the publication of the School's first year book, the *Conning Tower*, in the spring of 1927. Following Principal Pearson's retirement in 1936, Ernest Worden was appointed Principal and remained in that position for 22 years until his retirement in 1958.

Soon after becoming Principal, Mr. Worden appointed Heads of Departments and a Shop Director for the Vocational School, administrative changes that his predecessor refused to do according to the late Dora Wattie who served under both Messrs. Pearson and Worden. He is also credited with reviving the *Conning Tower* in 1937 (it had been cancelled in 1932 due to the Great Depression) and inaugurating the Students' Council. Under Mr. Worden's watch, the status of the School was upgraded in 1939 when Weston High and Vocational School became Weston Collegiate and Vocational School.

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Mr. Worden and his staff were confronted with a new and unexpected challenge, namely, the training of workers by the Vocational School for local industries that focused on war work. This was a resounding success and for its War Emergency Classes WCVS received high praise from both Queen's Park and Ottawa. The Great Depression, World War II and the Korean War frustrated Mr. Worden's plans for a new School addition that was desperately needed. However, the new addition was finally completed in 1953.

In October 1957, WCVS celebrated its Centennial and when Mr. Worden retired some nine months later, he had been a significant part of the School's life for nearly one-third of its 100 years–10 years as a teacher and 22 years as its Principal. During those 32 years, the School enrolment grew from approximately 900 to over 1500 students.

Mr. Worden was a long-time elder of Central United Church in Weston, a hard-working Rotarian and a Member of the Empire Club. His dear wife Frances predeceased him in June 1961, and in January 1964, Ernest passed away. He is survived by his daughter, Margaret (Worden) Snider and three grandchildren, Laurie, David and Nancy Snider.

C. Wesley Christie BA

Wes Christie was born in Owen Sound, Ontario where he received his elementary and secondary school education. Following high school, he enrolled at the University of Toronto (Victoria College) where he graduated with a B.A. degree in the classics (Latin & Greek). After one year of substitute teaching, he joined the staff of Weston High & Vocational School in 1936 as a classics teacher, a position he held until the mid 1950s.

In July 1952, Wes Christie was appointed Vice-Principal of WCVS and continued to teach Latin. In September 1958 he was appointed Principal of WCVS and served in that position until the "old school" was closed in 1969. Wes assumed an administrative role with the York Board for one year until he retired in 1970.

Wes and his wife Chris had two children. Marilyn spent her career teaching for the York Board and has retired recently. Jim was an elementary school teacher and principal with the Toronto Board until he retired in 1995.

After he retired, Wes and Chris travelled extensively and in the good weather spent many happy times at the cottage in Haliburton that Wes built himself in 1947. They were also active members of Central United Church in Weston. Wes passed away in 1996.

W. Harris Hill, B Comm

Harris Hill was born in Toronto where he received his primary and secondary education. Following graduation from University of Toronto School, he trained to become a flying instructor and later trained R.A.F. pilots in Western Canada during World War II. At the end of World War II, Harris enrolled at university and earned a Business degree (BComm) from the University of Toronto. He subsequently earned his teaching certificate and then taught at Orillia High School for 14 years.

Returning to Toronto, Harris was appointed Vice-Principal at Weston Collegiate in September 1968 and Principal one year later. He remained at WCI as Principal until 1975 when the York Board of Education appointed him Principal of Vaughan Road Collegiate and later York Memorial Collegiate. He retired in 1983.

In his retirement years, Harris trained boaters (power squadron) in the use of VHF radio, water safety as well as instructing persons planning to obtain Toronto Harbour Commission licences. He was an ardent supporter of the Kiwanis Music Festival and, following many years of service, the Kiwanis Club presented Harris with their Col. George Walter Peacock Award. Harris also served as a "Meals-On-Wheels" volunteer and as an elder of Royal York Road United Church. He passed away in April 2005.

Frank G. Irving BA

Frank Irving was a true son of the Mount Dennis/Weston community. He was born on October 9, 1919 in Mount Dennis and attended Bala Avenue Elementary School and York Memorial Collegiate Institute.

In 1940, during World War II he joined the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) and rose to the rank of Captain. He saw over three years of active service, piloting Lancaster bombers over the European theatre. However, early in 1945, he contracted tuberculosis and was sent home to the sanatorium on Buttonwood Avenue in Mount Dennis where he spent a convalescent period of two years.

Having plenty of time to weigh his future options, he decided on a teaching career. Frank attended Victoria College, University of Toronto and graduated in 1950, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Frank was the originator of Frank's Foods, teaching York Humber students the Food Preparation /Hospitality course. One of his students became the proprietor of the very successful Luigi's Trattoria, on Yonge Street.

Principal of Vaughan Road Collegiate became his next posting from 1973-1974. His years at Weston Collegiate Institute from 1975 to 1982 became Frank's greatest joy and sorrow. His leadership strength was a hands-off style reflecting his vast Guidance background. He quickly ascertained the staff could run the school very successfully under the able support of the department heads.

Packed houses for *Oliver* and subsequent successful productions brought joy to Weston C.I. and the Weston community. Students, staff and many members of the community were deeply involved in these cohesive productions, solidly supported by Frank Irving.

Sorrow over the tragedy of the bus accident during an Outdoor Education Day in 1979 was the lowest point in his career. Every person at Weston Collegiate, teaching staff, support staff and the Weston community stood ready to help Frank through this terrible ordeal.

The years with Frank Irving, was a time of growth and solidarity at Weston Collegiate. Joy or sorrow, Frank was a rock of support, compassion and wisdom to all who passed through his office or who knew him. Frank Irving was married to Nadine and they have a daughter, Dana. Frank G. Irving passed away in July, 1995.

Carolyn Collyer, BA, MEd

Carolyn Collyer was born and grew up in London, Ontario where she attended Central Collegiate and the University of Western Ontario (UWO). Following graduation, Carolyn taught in Brantford for one year (1958-59) and then moved to Metro Toronto where she joined the York Board and was assigned to Vaughan Road Collegiate as an English teacher and Guidance counsellor. She remained at Vaughan Road Collegiate for five years and then took six years off to raise a family. She subsequently returned to Vaughan Road Collegiate, stayed for six years, and was then transferred to George Harvey Secondary School as a guidance counsellor.

In 1978, the York Board appointed Carolyn Vice-Principal of Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI), and in July 1982, she became WCI's first female Principal. As Vice-Principal, Carolyn played a pivotal role in the days immediately following the tragic bus accident of January 1979 counselling both students and parents. In her first year as Principal, she actively supported and worked with the Committee that organized the School's 125th Anniversary celebrations of October 15-17, 1982, and following that, she became a founding member of the newly-formed Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation. Carolyn remained as Principal at Weston Collegiate until 1987 when the Board appointed her Principal of York's Adult Day School. She remained in the latter position until her retirement in 1993.

Following her retirement from the York Board of Education, Carolyn worked as a Management Consultant for five years. This included preparing and presenting several workshops on leadership and counselling for several businesses. She and her husband then moved to Vancouver Island where she quickly became involved in many activities including golf, bridge, gardening, hiking, book clubs, environmental issues, several charities, and babysitting two wonderful grandsons. Carolyn is a member

of the University Women's Club, and as chair of the Education Committee organized "Infinite Choice", a conference for 125 grade nine and ten students from the two high schools in her area.

Larry Rogers, BA, MA

Born in Toronto, Larry Rogers graduated from De La Salle Oaklands High School, St. Michael's College, U of T, and obtained an MA from Niagara University, New York State. His teaching career began at WCVS in 1964 and ended at WCI 1996 when he retired as Principal.

Larry first taught vocational classes at WCI and in 1966 he was appointed head of Guidance, a position he held until September, 1977. He then left Weston to be become Vice-Principal at George Harvey Secondary School. Four years later, he was transferred to York Memorial Collegiate as Vice-principal and in 1983 became Principal of that school. In 1987 Larry Rogers returned to Weston as Principal.

By 1987, when Larry became Principal, there were growing concerns with discipline and intruder problems, and the safety of students and staff. In October, 1989 a shooting incident occurred involving non-students shooting at Larry and his Vice-Principal Christopher Gavaris who were chasing them off the school property – fortunately there were no injuries. For greater security, internal changes were made including moving the office to a new addition at the front of the school facing Pine Street. School schedules and lunch hours were altered and the use of halls during school hours was severely restricted. Enrolment, which had risen to 1,600, was reduced to 1,250. Externally, a 10 foot fence was installed and during school hours, entrance to the school grounds was only through the school building itself. With improved security, the work of education continued and new programs were offered including Dental Assistant, Travel and Tourism, Cosmetology, plus expanded English as Second Language courses.

At the enriched level, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program deserves special mention. Larry and Tony Masciello, who was to be the new head of the program at Weston, met with the then Premier of Ontario, Bob Rae, to arrange permission for school boards to fund such a program. When the IB Program began in September, 1993, it was the second in Ontario offered to students who intended to continue their education abroad and required an international standing.

A.J. "Tony" Kerins, BA, MEd

"Tony" Kerins was born in Dublin Ireland in 1950 and came to Canada with his parents in 1961. He is a graduate of Downsview Collegiate and York University where he earned a bachelor of Arts Degree (.A). Subsequently, Tony earned a BEd and MEd at the University of Toronto and started his teaching career at Royal York Collegiate in 1970. After one year with the Etobicoke Board, Tony joined the staff of Vaughan Road Collegiate of the York Board where he taught history.

In September 1978, Tony joined the staff of Weston Collegiate where he taught guidance and history for seven years, assuming the position of Guidance Head in the early 1980s. He also found time to coach football and basketball. In September 1985, Tony was appointed Vice-Principal of Weston Collegiate and remained in that position until the summer of 1989 when he was transferred to York Memorial Collegiate. He returned to Weston Collegiate in September 1996 as Principal and remained in that position until the summer of 1999 when the newly-formed Toronto District School Board (TDSB) appointed him Principal of Oakwood Collegiate. Tony retired as Principal of Oakwood in 2004 and since that time has carried out a number of consulting assignments for the TDSB.

A long-time resident of Weston, Tony is married with three sons and leads an active life which includes "taxi service" to the many hockey arenas where his sons play.

Sharon W. List, BA, MEd

Sharon List grew up in York Township and graduated from Vaughan Road Collegiate in 1969. Subsequently, she earned an Honours B.A. from York University in 1973, a BEd from the U of T's Faculty of Education (FEUT) in 1974, and began her teaching career in September 1974 with the North York Board of Education at Lewis S. Beattie Secondary School. She taught English, English as a Second Language (ESL) and many courses with History Guidelines at Lewis S. Beattie, Northview Heights Secondary School and York Mills Collegiate Institute. Sharon's Masters Degree was conferred in June 1980 by OISE.

First appointed as a Vice-Principal at George S. Henry Academy in 1989, Sharon subsequently fulfilled a six year assignment in Human Resources with responsibilities for recruitment and staffing for both the North York Board of Education and following amalgamation, the "new" Toronto District School Board. In September 1999, Sharon was delighted to join the staff of Weston Collegiate Institute as Principal and remained in that position until February 2002 when she joined the York Region District School Board as the Principal of Westmount Collegiate Institute. In July 2005, Sharon assumed her responsibilities as a Superintendent of Education for the York Region District School Board. Although Sharon's stay at Weston Collegiate was relatively brief, (1999-2002), she proved to be a constant and strong supporter of the students and staff of the School and of the work of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation by her regular attendance at the Foundation's Executive Meetings.

Libert Castillo, BPHE, BEd

Libert Castillo was born in Trinidad where he received his elementary school education. Shortly after arriving in Canada in 1966, Libert was enrolled at Northern Secondary School where his football coach was Weston Collegiate alumnus, Clarke Pulford. Following his high school graduation in 1971, Libert enrolled at the University of Toronto (U of T) where he earned a Bachelor of Physical and Health Education degree in 1975 and a Bachelor of Education in 1976. He was a member of the Varsity Blues football team from 1971 until 1976.

In September 1976 Libert began his high school teaching career with the York Board of Education at Vaughan Road Collegiate where he remained for two years. The Board then transferred him to Weston Collegiate where he served for nine years as a physical education instructor, guidance counsellor and football coach. He was Head of Guidance in 1986 and 1987 as well as senior football Coach. During his nine years at WCI, Libert's football teams won four championships (1978, '79, '80 and '81). He was also on staff at the time of the tragic bus accident of January 1979 and together with other staff members was involved in counselling both students and parents.

Subsequent appointments by the York Board included: Headship at the York Student Career Centre (1987-1989), Vice-Principal of York's Adult Day School, Vice-Principal of George Harvey Collegiate Institute (1997-2000) and Principal at Weston Collegiate from January 2001 until his retirement in 2004.

Angela Petitti, BA, BEd

Angela Petitti, Weston Collegiate's third female Principal, was born in Toronto and grew up in the former City of Scarborough. After graduating from Birchmount Park Collegiate, she earned a B.A. from the University of Toronto (U of T), followed by a B.Ed. from the Faculty of Education of the U. of T. (FEUT). Following graduation, Angela joined the "old" Toronto Board of Education in 1979 when the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto was made up of six area municipalities, namely East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, Toronto and York.

During the first twenty years of her teaching career, Angela was first an English as a Second Language teacher (ESL), and guidance counsellor at Eastern Commerce (1979-1989) and the assistant head of guidance at Oakwood Collegiate (1989-1999), rising to the position of Head of Guidance at the latter school.

In September 1999, she was appointed Vice-Principal at Northern Secondary School and remained there until 2003 when she assumed the same position at Timothy Eaton Business and Technical Institute (2003-Jan 2005). In February 2005, Angela was appointed Principal of Weston Collegiate Institute.

Vice-Principals of Weston Collegiate Institute 1950–2007

The first Vice-Principal appointed at Weston Collegiate was Mr. Thomas D. Boone, MA who served in that capacity from 1950 until 1952. Others who were appointed to the position of Vice-Principal are listed below in chronological order.

Mr. Thomas D. Boone, MA	1950 – 1952
Mr. C. Wesley Christie, BA	1952 – 1958
Mr. Ralph R. Heard, BA, BPaed	1958 – 1973
Mr. Peter H. C. Ferguson, BPHE	1964 – 1968
Mr. W. Harris Hill, B Comm	1968 – 1969
Mr. W.G. Fullerton, BPHE	1969 – 1971
Mr. Milan Crepp. BA, MEd	1971 – 1978
Mr. R.A. Rosebrugh, BPHE, MEd	1975 – 1977
Mr. R.G. Fraser, BA, MSc, EdD	1977 – 1983
Mrs. Carolyn Collyer, BA, MEd	1978 – 1982
Mr. W. Ogg, BA	1982 – 1984
Mr. R.G. Awrey, BA, BPHE	1983 – 1984
Mr. A. G. Bowers, MA, MEd	1984 – 1985
Mr. R.W.E. Nelson, MA, BEd	1984 – 1987
Mr A.J. "Tony" Kerins, BA, BEd	1985 – 1989
Ms. R.A. Ross, BA, BEd*	1986 – 1987
Mr. R. Adams, BA, BEd	1987 – 1989
Ms. M. Miller, BA, BEd, MEd	1987 – 1988
Mr. C.J. Gavaris, BA, BEd	1988 – 1993
Ms. C.A. Bongard, BA, BEd	1989 – 1992
Ms. J. Wright, BA, MEd	1989 – 1990
Ms. Jan A. Thor, BSc, BEd	1990 – 1991
Ms C. P. Baycroft, BA, BEd, MScEd	1991 – 1992
Mr. Steven Cann, BA, BEd	1992 – 1996
Ms R.A. Shepherd, BA, BEd*	1992 – 1993
Ms Jan A. Thor, BSc, BEd	1993 – 2001
Ms. D.J. Zakus, BEd, MA	1993 – 1995
Mr. S.E. Knight, MusBac, MEd	1995 – 1999
Ms K. McCabe, BA, MEd	1996 – 1997
Ms S. Kane, BSc, BEd	1997 – 1998
Ms Jane Loney, BA, BEd	1998 – 2006
Mr. R.M. McNaughton, MEd, BPHE	1999 – 2002
Mr. H. Neita, MA, MEd	2001 – 2005
Mr. I. Botnick, BSc, BEd	2004 –
Mrs G. Toth, BA, BEd	2005 –
Ms R. Goldenberg, MA, MEd	2005 – 2006

* Same Person – Mrs. R.A. (Shepherd) Ross

Weston Collegiate Teaching Staff 1957 to present day

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. A. Acosta	1988–1992
Mrs. K. Adamek	1959–1964
Mr. R. Adams	1979–1983
Mr. M. Agsteribbe	1970–2001
Ms. L. Aiken	1981–2001
Ms. S. Aitken	1994–
Ms. F. Alarakhiya	2003–
Ms. C. Albanese	1997–2002
Mr. N. Alexis	1978–2003
Mrs. S. Algie*	1963–1965
Mrs. S (Skene) Algie*	1963–1965
Mr. R. Ali	1994–
Mr. R. Al-Khatib	2005–
Mr. M. A. Allard	1957–1969
Mr. J. F. Allen	1955–1958
Ms. S. Allingham	1999–2001
Ms. H. Altbaum	1985–2002
Mr. V. Amani	2006–
Ms. A. Amo	1970–1982
Ms. S. Andrzejewski	1985–1988
Mr. M. Anthony	2005–
Mr. R. Antonopoulos	1997–1998
Mr. P. Aranha	2006–
Miss A. Arao	1976–1977
Ms. M. Arban	1992–1996
Miss M.Auger	1964–1965
Mr. R. Barber	1980–1982
Mr. G. H. Barr	c1957–1963
Mr. J. Barwick	1967–1970
Ms. B. Bates	1988–1990
Mr. R. G. Baxter	1939–1970
Mr. A. Bell	1951–1958
Mrs. P. Bell	1969–1970
Ms. P. Bengo	2001–2005
Mr. F. J. Bergeron	1970–1996
Miss S. Berneman	1970–1973
Mr. A. Bevan	1970–1987
Mrs. M. Bielby	1955–1967
Mr. M. B. Bielby	1955–1979
Mr. F. W. Birket	1970–1985
Mr. C. Bis	2001–
Mr. F. Black	1985–1987
Ms. G. Blackburn	1987–1998
Mr. K. W. Blackwell	1976–1979
Ms. D. Blake	1996–1998
Miss M. D. Blanaru	1975–1991
Mr. R.J. Blanchard*	1977–1979
Mr. R.J. Blanchard*	1988–1999
Ms. M. Bleier	1977–
Miss M. Boehm	1964–1976
Ms. R. Bogusat	1993–1999
Miss R. Bolt	1963–1966
Mr. H. Bolton	1960–1961
Mr. V. Borisenko	1964–1967
Mr. V. Borrow	1985–1987
Mr. E. Both	1968–2001
Mr. A. C. Boukydis	1961–1963
Mr. O. Bowles	1982–1983
Mrs. L. Boyd	1960–1982
Ms. K. Boylan	1993–1994
Mrs. M. Bozzo	1978–1987
Mr. F. R. Branscombe PhD	Before 1949–1964
Ms. N. Brien	1981–1992
Ms. G. Brossard	1990–1994
Mr. R. Brossard	2002–
Mr. D. Brown	1962–1968
Mr. B. Bruce	1974–1975
Mr. D. R. Bruce	1967–1996
Mr. P. T. Brusselers	1973–1996
Miss E. M. Buell*	1939–1963
Mrs. E.M. (Buell) Walker*	1963–1972
Mr. W. J. Burgess	1948–1963
Miss L. Burns	1967–1969
Mr. M. Butler	1996–2001
Ms. K. Calleja	1999–2006
Mr. T. J. Calnan	Before 1947–1968
Miss D. R. Cameron	1957–1959
Mr. C. E. Campbell	1962–1965

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. G. C. Campbell	1968–1969
Mrs. K. Campbell	1981–1990
Miss M. Campbell	1936–1968
Mr. M.A. Campbell	1976–1982
Mr. P. Campbell	1980–2001
Ms. S. Capogna	2001–2005
Mrs. M. Carroll	1969–1970
Mr. J. Carson*	1973–1975
Mr. J. Carson*	1980–1985
Mr. C. Carter	1985–1990
Ms. V. Carter	1996–1997
Mr. P. Cartlidge	2005–
Mr. L. Castillo	1978–1988
Mr. F. Cedolia	1979–
Ms. T. Cerven-Shaw	2001–2005
Mr. S. Chadwick	1996–
Ms. M. Chang	1996–1997
Mr. J. F. Charelle	1962–1969
Mr. F. Charles	1972–1995
Mr. F. Cheng	2002–2003
Mr. B. Cheung	2006–
Mr. L. Chiappetta	1999–2003
Mr. H. Chinnery	1992–2001
Mr. K. W. Chittick	1969–1970
Mr. A. Cho	2001–
Mr. J. F. Choat	1970–1974
Mrs. H. Chochlewicz	1964–1967
Mr. D. Chong	1967–1975
Mrs. A. Church	1959–1960
Mrs. N. Clark	1974–1980
Mr. R. S. Clark	1969–1974
Ms. B. Clarke	1987–1988
Ms. P. Clarke	1979–1980
Mr. J. C. Clayson	1949–1968
Miss C. Cobham	1967–1974
Miss L. I. Coburn	c1936–1959
Mr. J. K. Cole	1964–1970
Mr. J. S. Conrad	1962–1974
Mr. H. A. Constable	1953–1961
Mrs. A. Cook	1966–1967
Mr. P. Corner	1991–1996
Mr. P. Corner	1991–1996
Mr. James D. Coutts	1970–1973
Mr. M. Covello	1979–1980
Mr. J. Crewe	2001–
Ms. M. Crewe	2006–
Mr. R. Crothall	1983–1998
Ms. N. Crouse	1992–1998
Ms. A. Crowley-Morrow	1980–1991
Miss B. J. Cruise*	1959–1961
Mrs. B.J. (Cruise) Putnam*	1961–1965
Ms. M. Crushka	1992–1993
Ms. K. Currie	1981–1982
Ms. A. Dale	1990–
Mr. M. W. Daly	1963–1969
Mr. W. D'Angelo	1970–1992
Mr. G. B. Daniel	1962–1965
Mr. B. Darbey	1979–1982
Ms. L. Dathorne	1981–1986
Ms. N. Davey-Palias	2005–
Mr. E. D. Dawson	1967–1992
Ms. L. Dechaine	1985–2006
Mr. P. Degano	2006–
Ms. C. DeJager	1961–1967
Mr. J. Deline	1974–1996
Ms. N. Deline	1983–1988
Mrs. S. Della Torre	1970–1979
Mr. D. Dellio	2001–
Miss D. DeSouza	1970–1975
Mr. H. G. Dichter	1969–2001
Mr. S. Dimitrov	2003–
Mrs. M. Dingfeld	1970–1972
Ms. G. Dion	2001–2005
Miss M. DiRocco	1976–1978
Mr. W. Dobson	1987–1990
Mr. N. G. Dodgson	1972–1976
Ms. J. Doggett	1999–
Ms. M. Doherty	2001–2003
Miss T. Donovan	1976–1981
Ms. S. Dras	1986–1990
Mr. T. G. Drew-Brook	1963–1967
Miss O. Drozd	1964–1965

* Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Miss O. Drozd	1964–1965
Ms. J. D'Sylva	1996–2001
Ms. I. Duckett	1998–2006
Mr. D. Dudeck	1997–1998
Mr. M. Duggan	1987–1997
Ms. P. Dunlop	2005–
Mr. K. T. Dunsmore	1963–1964
Mr. G. R. Dussiaume	1976–1987
Mr. J. Dvorak	1955–1962
Mrs. G. Easterbrook	1964–1970
Mrs. C. Edwards	1970–1972
Ms. T. Eigrichi	2001–
Mr. E. Ellis	1959–1961
Mr. L. F. Ellis	1975-1985
Mr. W. J. Ellison	1938–1972
Ms. N. Emo	1985–2001
Ms. L. Empringham	1998–
Ms. M. Englert	1995–1996
Mr. R. Evely	1988–1998
Ms. A. Ezhari	2002–
Miss M. Fanning	1955–1981
Ms. A. Farago	2005–
Mr. G. Farmer	1957–1959
Mr. P. Farrol	1991–1993
Ms. M. Faziluddin	1994–1995
Ms. S. Feldman	1983–1986
Mr. P. H. Ferguson	1952–1964
Mr. K. B. Fernander	1970–1972
Ms. C. Ferrier	1996–1998
Mrs. K. Fidler	1976–1990
Mrs. F. Filippetto	1978–1979
Mrs. J. Findlay	1968–1969
Mrs. A. Fines	1968–1969
Miss M. Fis	1970–1998
Mr. A. Flahat	1995–1999
Mrs. K. Fidler	1976–1977
Ms. T. Fontana	1990–1999
Mrs. A. Ford	1977–1979
Ms. S. Fortun*	1988–1999
Ms. S. Fortun*	2003–
Mr. C. C. Frewin	1969–1970
Mr. A. W. Fulton	1962–1988
Ms C.M. Gagne	2005–
Ms. T. Galanis*	2001–2003
Ms. T Galanis*	2006–
Ms. J. Gallo	1989–1990
Mr. G. R. Gaouette	1972–1997
Mr. G. Garlin	1962–1970
Ms. J. Garvey	1984–1985
Mr. J. Gatten	1962–1969
Ms. J. Gauthier-Kennedy	1983–1985
Mr. R. G. Gemmell	1939–1963
Mr. J. Gerbrandt	2006–
Ms. M. Giardine	1997–1998
Mr. S. W. Gilbert	1972–2001
Mr. W. Gillis	1995–2001
Mr. J. Glass	1995–1996
Mr. R. Glen	2001–
Mr. N. A. Glenesk	1962–1970
Mr. G. Godsoe	1980–1996
Mr. D. Goforth	1970–1972
Miss H.M. Golden	1959–1963
Ms. J. Goldhar	1968–1969
Mr. M. Goldstein	1984–2005
Miss J. Goodheart	1968–1969
Ms. E. Gordon	1980–1988
Mrs. C. Gordon-Green	1994–2001
Mrs. T. Gorski	1966–1967
Mrs. R. Gotfrid	1969–1982
Mr. C. A. Gray	1965–1979
Mrs. P. Greenberg	1970–1976
Mr. W. Grubb	1970–1973
Ms. M. Grushka, PhD	1991–1994
Ms. J. Guse	1987–1990
Mr. G. Hamara	1974–2003
Miss B. Hancox	1968–1969
Mrs. M. Hanemann*	1973–1999
Mrs. M (Kahro) Hanemann*	1973–1999
Miss R. Hanlon	1945–1964
Mr. S. Hanna	1960–1967
Miss C. Hannan	1959–1960
Miss I. Hardy, RN	Before 1947–1964

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Ms. K. Harrap	1991–1996
Ms. L. Harrigan	2005–
Mr. M. Harvey	1963–1967
Ms. C. Hatanaka	1979–1980
Mrs. E. Hawkey	1956–1968
Mrs. C. Hayne	1965–1967
Mr. R. R. Heard	1950–1958
Mrs. B. Heintz	1974–1981
Mrs. J. Henderson	1963–1964
Mrs. C. Henry	1969–2003
Mr. B. Hepburn	1999–
Mr. W. C. Hewitt	1950–1960
Mr. D. Hobbs	2001–
Mr. J. N. Hockin	1972–1979
Mr. J.E. Hoey	1951–1973
Mrs. J. Hoey	1981–2001
Mrs. D.W. Holloway	1960–1961
Miss C. Hope	1969–1970
Mr. G. Hophan	1974–
Ms. L. Hosso	1987–1990
Mr. G. Huang*	2002–2003
Mr. G. Huang*	2005–
Mr. D. Hutchinson	1992–1993
Mrs. J. Hunter	1975–2001
Ms. D. Hurd	1999–2001
Ms. A. Hutton	1984–1985
Ms. A. Iliescu	1988–1990
Mr. N. Italiano	1982–1988
Mr. Q. A. Jackson	1966–1967
Ms. E. Jackson	1981–1990
Ms. J. Jackson	2005–
Ms. R. Jafri	1991–1998
Ms. S. Jankowski	1985–1996
Mrs. R. Jardine	1968–1969
Mrs. N. Jenkinson	1973–1975
Mrs. B. Jepson	1978–1979
Mr. R. L. Johnston	1977–1979
Mr. R. G. Jones	1965–1966
Mr. C. N. Jones	1970–1999
Mr. R. E. Joselyn	1960–1963
Ms. L. Joy	2001–2003
Mr. L. D. Joyce, Ph.D	1957–1958
Mrs. K. Jull	1964–1967
Miss M. Kahro*	1969–1973
Mrs. M. (Kahro) Hanemann*	1973–1999
Ms. M. Kainola	1996–1998
Ms. L. Kam	1997–1998
Mr. C. Kapetis	1963–1964
Ms. L. Karn	1995–1997
Ms. L. Kay	1990–1993
Ms. E. Keenleyside	1974–1976
Mr. Wm. J. Kelly	1974–1992
Mrs. C. Kelly	1975–1979
Ms. C. Kelly	2002–2003
Mr. A. Kerins	1978–1985
Ms. J. Ketley	1996–1997
Ms. S. Khaja	2004–2006
Mr. A. Khan	1991–
Ms. N. Khanna	2001–
Ms. P. Kilbourn	2001–
Mr. W. S. Kilfoyle	1974–1998
Mr. G. B. King	1966–1990
Ms. S. King	1982–2001
Mr. R. Kingsley	2001–2002
Mr. D. S. Kishimoto	1974–2003
Miss L. Knipfel	1974–1975
Mr. P. Ko	2006–
Ms. T. Koivu	1991–1996
Ms. M. Koltunov	2005–
Mr. P. Komlos	1970–1984
Mr. A. Kordbacheh	2003–
Mrs. C. Kotowycz	1975–1976
Mr. P. Koutakos	2004–
Miss A. Koval	1961–1966
Mrs. E. Kriksciunas	1961–1963
Mr. H. Krol	1992–1993
Mr. F. A. Kulhay	1964–1968
Mr. D. Kunica	1998–2001
Mrs. V. Kuryliw	1974–1990
Mr. A. Kwon	2004–
Mr. J. A. LaJoie	1963–1966
Ms. M. Lal	2006–

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. J. Lamb	1980–1982
Mr. W. D. Lancaster	1945–1963
Mr. R. Langen	1998–2001
Mr. D. Langer	2001–
Ms. D. Larratt-Smith	1993–1994
Mr. S. Larratt-Smith	2003–
Mr. K. M. Lauder	1971–1972
Miss R. LaValley	1973–1976
Ms. J. Leach	1990–
Miss R.H. Leckie	Before 1947–1972
Mr. B. J. Lee	1958–1962
Ms. R. Lee	1985–2002
Mrs. M. Lemke	1962–1973
Mr. J. Lethbridge	1951–1967
Mr. J. Letts	1967–1970
Mr. T. F. Lewiecki	1961–1964
Ms. C. Limbertie	2002–2003
Mr. P. Linke	1967–1968
Miss S. Linycia	1963–1964
Ms. V. Loader	1994–1996
Mrs. M. Logan	1980–1981
Mr. D. E. Loney	1950–1960
Mr. K. Long	1996–2001
Ms. J. Longeway	2001–2002
Ms. M. Lord	1979–2001
Ms. V. Losell	1988–1990
Ms. D. Lovell	1994–1997
Mr. K. Lovinsky	1970–1998
Ms. E. Low	1997–1998
Ms. J. Lucic	2005–
Ms.A. Lumsden	1999–2001
Mrs. D. Lussow	1975–2001
Mrs. A. Macdonald	1974–1977
Miss V. Macintosh	1976–2001
Ms. T. MacIsaac	2006–°
Mr. J. Mackin	1976–1978
Ms. K. MacLaine	2001–2003
Mr. D. MacLellan	1980–1982
Mr. G.M.. Madge	1959–1960
Ms. T. Maestri	1999–
Miss J. Magiera*	1975–1983
Mrs. J. (Magiera) Roth*	1983–2002
Mr. T. Maguire	2002–
Mrs. A. Maida	1968–1969
Mr. C.C. Malloch	1958–1970
Mr. J. J. Mambourg, PhD	1964–1987
Ms. M. Mandres	2001–
Ms. E. Mandy	1987–2001
Ms. A. Marin	2001–
Ms. E. Mark	2001–2005
Miss S. Maroosis	1962–1963
Ms. C. Marques	2005–
Miss K. Marshall	1974–1976
Mr. G. Martell	1998–1999
Ms. B. Martin	1998–2006
Mrs. C.S. Martin	1963–1966
Mrs. M. Martin	1957–1959
Ms. N. Martins	2004–
Mr. J. P. Martyn	1967–1974
Mr. A. Masciello	1986–1997
Ms. J. Mather	1973–1988
Ms. G. McArdle	1981–1982
Miss E. McArthur	1969–1970
Ms. K. McCabe	1982–1984
Mr. H. F. McCartney	1957–1985
Ms. R. McCoubrey	2001–
Ms. P. McCullough	1984–1990
Mrs. R. McDonald	1966–1968
Mrs. R. McFalls	1965–1967
Mrs. M. McKeough	1969–1970
Mr. W. H. McKinnon	1959–1962
Mrs. S. McLaughlin	1965–1968
Mr. J. G. McLean	c1936–1970
Mr. E. A. McLean	1961–1966
Mrs. S. McIlraith	1975–1976
Mr. J. P. McLoughlin	1954–1959
Ms. L. McMann	2001–2006
Mr. E. C. McMillan	1953–1958
Ms. A. McMillan	2005–
Mr. P. S. McVittie	1966–1969
Ms. A. Melo	2003–
Ms. R. Mendelsohn	1982–1987

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. J. Mercer	1971–1973
Mr. A. Mian	2002–2003
Mr. R. Michalik	1999–2001
Mrs. S. Middlemiss	1976–1990
Mr. J. C. Mile	1968–1992
Miss J. Miller	1972–1974
Ms M. Miller	1992–2001
Mr. P. Miller	1975–
Ms S. Miller	1996–1998
Mr. J. Milligan	1981–1982
Mr. D. R. Mills	1969–1998
Mr. J. Milosh	1975–1992
Mrs. R. Mitchele	1967–1973
Mr. B. Mitchell	1986–1998
Mr. D. Mofford	1991–1992
Mr. J. Montgomery	1993–1997
Ms M. Moore	1997–1998
Ms S. C. Morris	1966–1980
Ms C. Morrison	1999–
Mr. F. M. Motyl	1968–1969
Mr. M. Moumouris	2005–
Mr. G. A. Munro	1963–1969
Mrs. S. Muskat	1973–1990
Mr. R. Nadalin	2001–
Mr. K.R. Nadin	1994–1996
Mr. R. S. Nadin	1958–1994
Mr. R. W. Nelson	1973–1984
Mr. T. W. Nephin	1976–1977
Mr. M. Netzel	1982–1990
Mr. J. Nevins	1970–1973
Ms. L. Newland	1982–1987
Mr. P. Nicholls	1970–2003
Ms B. Nickoloff	1985–1987
Mr. J. Noble	1985–1986
Ms F. Nolan	1984–1985
Mr. M. Netzel	1984–1990
Mr. C. Novogrodsky	1979–1980
Ms M. Nyers	2004–2006
Ms S. Nykolaiszyn	1979–1985
Mr. J. O'Connor	1985–1987
Mrs. W. Oliver	1975–1976

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. R. Onizuka	1992–1997
Mr. H. Pacheco	1992–1995
Miss M. Page	1964–1977
Miss M. Panning	1958–1959
Mr. D. S. Panzer	1976–2006
Ms C. Papaiconomou	2003–
Mr. W. J. Pardy	1963–1970
Mrs. G. Pate	1962–1995
Mr. C. Patel	1979–1985
Mrs. D. Paton	1972–1974
Mr. A. Patterson	1985–1992
Mrs. W. R. Patterson	1954–1961
Ms V. Peachman	1982–1990
Miss S. Pelto	1970–1973
Mr. W. Petersen	1988–
Ms C. Phoenix	1990–1996
Miss M. Pilcher	1968–1969
Mr. K. Poole	1986–1992
Mrs. D. Poplar	1973–1975
Mr. D. Pottruff	1995–1996
Ms L. Pratten	1992–1993
Mr. M. Priebe-Nizar	2003–2005
Ms M. Prior	1991–1996
Mrs. B.J Putnam*	1961–1965
Mrs. B.J. (Cruise) Putnan*	1961–1965
Mrs. R. Radko	1965–1966
Mrs. Ann Rand	1970–1972
Ms. M. Ransom	2003–
Mr. E. D. Read	1960–1962
Mr. W. S. Redman	1966–1967
Mr. C.D. Reid	1991–1998
Mr. D. Reid	2004–
Mr. G. Reynar	1990–1995
Mr. R. R. Reynolds	1966–1969
Ms. M. Richard	1991–1997
Mrs. D. Richards	1960–1965
Ms. J. Richards	2001–
Mrs. M. Richards	1966–1967
Ms. L. Rillie	1993–1994
Mr. W. G. Robb	1968–1995
Ms. S. Roberts	1987–1988

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Mrs. T. Robertson	1967–1969
Mr. E. A. Robinson	1969–1970
Mr. G. Robinson	1986–1987
Mr. P. Roffman	1992–1993
Mr. L. J. Rogers	1964–1977
Ms. S. Romeiko	1996–1998
Ms. O. Romita	1991–1997
Ms. A. Romo	1998–1999
Ms. C. Ross	1972–2001
Mrs. J. Roth*	1983–2002
Mrs. J. (Magiera) Roth*	1983–2002
Mr. T. Rudan	2001–
Mr. G. F. Rusin	1975–1976
Mr. G. H. Russell	Before 1947–1970
Mr. R. Russell	1973–1974
Miss P. Ryans	1963–1967
Ms. R. Sale	1999–
Ms. M. Salwinska	1997–1998
Mr. T. Samotowka	1964–1966
Ms. A. Sampson	1990–1999
Mr. F. B. Sanders	c1955–1969
Mrs. J. Sanders	1974–1984
Ms. C. Santos	2001–
Mr. D. Scherpenberg	1986–1987
Mr. J. D. Schmidt	1969–1979
Ms. L. Schwartz	2006–
Mr. E. K. Scorgie	1972–1973
Mr. R. S. Scott	c1934–1968
Mr. R. Scott	2003–2005
Miss W. Scott	1954–1959
Ms. A. Seidl	1979–1980
Mr. H. Sharbaf Ebrahimi	1994–
Mr. C. Sharp	2002–2006
Mr. L. G. Shepherd	1957–1964
Miss A. Sherkin	1959–1962
Mrs. A. Shulman	1962–1963
Mr. J. E. Silcox	1961–1962
Ms. P. Singh	1998–
Mr. G. Singleton-Wood	2001–
Ms. A. Sinnette	1996–
Miss S. Skene*	1962–1963
Mrs. S. (Skene) Algie*	1963–1965
Mr. R. Skol	2002–
Ms. J. Slacer	1980–1982
Ms. C. Smart	2003–2005
Ms. D. Smith	1993–1999
Miss J.H. Smith	1929–1961
Mr. J. Smith	2005–
Mr. L.V. Smith	1971–1993
Mrs. S.B. Smith	1966–1968
Ms. N. Smylski	2001–
Mr. G. Sneddon	1954–1960
Mr. J. Solarski	1984–
Mr. B. P. Sood	1969–1992
Ms. S. Souriyasack	2001–2003
Ms. S. Sparrow	2002–2003
Ms. A. Spiteri	1982–1988
Miss N. Starr	1972–1973
Mr. M. Stavinga	1995–1996
Mr. P. Stefaniuk	1989–1990
Mrs. F. Stephens	1968–1969
Mr. J. Stockdale	2005–
Ms. S. Stratford	1988–1990
Ms. A. Strifas	1993–1994
Mr. P. Suddul	2006–
Ms. S. Sugunasiri	1990–1998
Mr. J. Y. Sukman	1960–1963
Mr. L A. Swain	1967–1972
Mr. L.A. Swatridge	1957–1963
Mrs. M. Talacko	1975–1981
Ms. P. Talacko	1983–1985
Miss S. Talbot	1974–1976
Mr. G Tarjan	1964–1965
Mr. A. Taylor	1952–1962
Mr. K. J. Taylor	1963-1967
Ms. S. Taylor	2005–
Mrs. O. Teasdale	1961–1962
Mr. S. Teasdale	1974–2005
Mr. M. Tenentes	2005–
Mr. A. H. Tennyson	1957–1969
Mr. P. Terrel	1978–1979
Miss M. Thomas	1961–1963

*Same Person

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. G. K. Thompson	1965–1998
Mr. H. E. Thompson	1957–1959
Mr. M. W. Thompson	1939–1976
Miss D. Tinline	1955–1979
Mr. R. Todd	1987–1988
Mr. W. Tuchak	1961–1964
Mr. S. Turchiaro	1987–1988
Mrs. P. Turvey	1974–1977
Ms. J. Ulanowska	1998–
Ms. D. Urosevic	1990–
Mrs. M. Uzelac	1973–1977
Ms. K. Vagiste	1984–1986
Mrs. P. Vale	1969–1980
Mrs. J. Van der Veen	1970–2001
Ms. M. Van Veizen	1997–1999
Mr. R. Van Vliet	1951–1960
Ms. R. Varolin	2001–2002
Mrs. L. Versage	1972–1999
Mr. H. Vincencio	1999–2005
Miss A. Viddal	1967–1968
Mr. J. Vieira	1987–1990
Ms. M. Villegas	1989–1990
Ms. J. Voges	2004–
Ms. L. Von Richter	1988–1990
Mr. B. Vyas	1996–2006
Mr. D. B. Wade	1975–
Mrs. E.M. Walker*	1963–1972
Mrs. E.M. (Buell) Walker*	1963–1972
Ms. F. Wallis	1996–1997
Ms. M. Walter, PhD	1969–1970
Miss W. Walton	c1945–1963
Mr. D. Watkins	2001–
Mr. G. Watson	1989–1998
Miss D. E. Wattie	1928–1967
Mr. K. C. Weaver	1975–1990
Miss R. Webster	1965–1966
Ms. T. Wehnde	1985–1988
Mr. D. Weir	2002–
Ms. L. Weisbrod	1987–1990
Mr. J. H. Weller	1963–1967
Mr. K. Wendt	1992-1993

Name	Year(s) taught
Mr. G. E. Whitaker	1973–2006
Mr. J. G. White	1960–1961
Mrs. N. White	1977–1978
Mr. R. A. White	1967–1988
Mr. R. E.Whiting	1936–1963
Mr. M. G. Whyte	1964–1969
Mrs. E. Wild	1962–1977
Mr. S. Wilkinson	1989–2001
Mr. D. Williams	1976–2006
Mrs. W. Willis	1966–1974
Mr. H. Wilson	1985–1986
Ms. K. Wilson	2001–
Mr. P. A. Wilson	1958–1959
Mr. R. Wilson	1962–1969
Ms. G. Wilson-Gomez	1994–1995
Mrs. N. Wittlin	1973–1990
Ms. S. Wolfowicz	1981–1983
Ms. C. Wong	2005–
Mrs. M. Wong	1978–1980
Mr. M. Woo	2003–2005
Mr. G. F. Wood	1960–1966
Mr. J. A. Wood	1963–1964
Mr. E. W. Wright	1969–1976
Mrs. H.J. Wright	1957–1964
Mrs. J.S. Wright	1964–1969
Ms. J. Wylie	1979–1980
Mr. P. Yamaguchi	1960–1995
Mr. J. Yan	1985–1990
Ms H. Yang	1990–1998
Mr. N. Yasher	1967–1968
Mr. F. N. Yeigh	Before 1948–1969
Mrs. K. Young	1968–1969
Mr. M. Young	1962–1963
Ms S. Zeldin	2004–2006
Mr. J. Zorzi	1979–
Mr. A. Zysek	1967–1968

*Same Person

Secretarial and Administrative Office Staff 1957 – 2007

During the 1950s, the most senior secretary in the office of WCVS was variously referred to as the "Principal's Secretary" and later, the "Head Secretary". Later (circa 1972) the title "Administrative Assistant" was used; with amalgamation of the six area municipalities of Metro Toronto in 1999 to form the "mega city" of Toronto, the term "Office Administrator" emerged. The following persons have served in the foregoing roles:

Mrs. F.C. Stephens, Head Secretary	September 1963 to June 1972
Mr. Gordon Puddester, Administrative Assistant	September 1972 to June 1978
Mrs. Angela Gleadall, Administrative Assistant	September 1978 to June 1994
Ms. Marisa Giorno, Office Administrator	September 1994 to Present (2007)

The following secretaries, (listed in alphabetical order), have worked in the office of WCVS/WCI at various times during the period 1957-2007:

Mrs. D. Ackers
Ms. L. Adachi
Mrs. A. Almeida
Ms. M. Aquino
Mrs. L. Ash
Miss G. Astle
Miss P. Baker
Ms. A.M. Barrett
Ms. N. Barry
Mrs. J. Blay
Ms. R. Borg
Miss J. Brown
Mrs. A. Bruzzese
Mrs. R. Bryers
Mrs. N. Burton
Ms. O. Caputo
Ms. S. Caringi
Ms. V. Chiu
Mrs. A. Ciotti
Miss L. Crocker
Ms. M. D'Atri
Ms. R. Debono
Mrs. J. Di Michele
Ms. L. Doyle
Mrs. B. Draper
Mrs. G. Duff
Miss K. Ecklin
Mrs. F. Fiore
Mrs. K. Fodeau
Mrs. C. Galati
Mrs. J. Gardiner
Ms. L. Genovese
Mrs. L. Gratton
Mrs. A. Gutsch
Miss B. Hancox
Mrs. K. Harrison
Mrs. D. Haylock
Ms. D. Hill
Miss L. Izon
Ms. H. Johnston
Ms. W. Kenny
Ms. M.E. Lang
Mrs.. A. Lanzillota
Mrs. R. LaRocca
Mrs. S. Levin
Miss D. MacLean
Mrs. A. Maida
Mrs. F. Maranzan
Mrs. P. McCullough
Ms. N. McLaughlin
Ms. C. Melidoniotis
Miss A. Menear
Ms. S. Meneses
Ms. H. Michelin
Mrs. E. Noonan
Miss Y. Pare
Ms. E. Penzes
Ms. B. Peters
Mrs. S. Pivato
Ms. B. Peters
Mrs. S. Pivato
Miss E. Rist
Mrs. A. Roy
Ms. M. Ruddick
Mrs. Y. Sharpe
Ms. J. Shimkofski
Ms. S. Sieffert
Ms. A. Simonetta
Mrs. D. St. John
Mrs. I. Steer
Ms. N. Stewart
Miss M. Strachan
Mrs. J. Stutt
Ms. L. Swan
Mrs. J. Tenesee
Miss D. Thomas
Miss D. Thomas
Ms. J. Tolley
Ms. M. Trauzzi
Miss K. Trosino
Mrs. C. Visconti
Mrs. M.A. Walter
Ms. J. Ward
Ms. I. Watt
Mrs. O. Whalen
Miss J. Wilson
Mrs. K. Young

Caretaking and Maintenance Staff 1957–2007

During the 1950s and 1960s, the duties of WCVS's caretakers were primarily janitorial in nature. When the new school opened in 1969 (with several new facilities such as the swimming pool) the caretakers duties were expanded to include some maintenance work; as a result, the title of the most senior janitor was changed from Head Caretaker to Head of Maintenance. During the last dozen years before the old school was demolished, Mr. Arthur Hatton served as Head Caretaker.

In the 1969 Commencement Program, Arthur Hatton is listed as the Head Caretaker and the following year, he is listed as the Head of Maintenance. Since 1970, the following persons have served as Head of Maintenance:

Arthur Hatton	September 1970 to August 1984
Arthur Hill	September 1984 to August 1989
Ford Kippen	September 1989 to August 1992
Raymond Jones	September 1992 to August 1999
Domenic Zecchino	September 1999 to August 2000
David Gaston	September 2000 to August 2003
Roger Berry	September 2003 to August 2005
David Gordon	September 2005 to June 2006
Roger Berry	September 2006 to Present

The following caretakers (listed alphabetically) worked at Weston Collegiate during the period 1957-2007:

Ron Alymar
Fernando Armogida
John Beatty
Ralph Bulmer
Sameer Chunara
Geraldine Coyle-Vanderstarken
Tony DiFabio
Jacques Emond
Rick Foley
Frank Greco
Mario Greco
Sam Imer
John Jenkins
Nick Kakarelis
Jamie King
William Mayo
John Morin
Ralph McKeen
Tim O'Brady
Frank Peres
John Ralph
Steve Reseter
Larry Robinson
Frank Stolf
Peng Tan
John Venneri
Kin Sim Wai
James Wells

Chapter 10

Anniversary Reunions and The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

In this chapter, some highlights of various anniversary reunions are presented, starting with the Centennial Reunion of WCVS in 1957. Subsequent reunions were held in 1982 (125th), 1987 (130th), 1997 (140th) and 2002 (145th).

Centennial Anniversary Reunion, October 18, 19 and 20, 1957

An excellent summary of the 1957 reunion appeared in the 1958 issue of the *Conning Tower* and that article is presented hereunder with the School's permission. Two statements in the article could be challenged, namely:

(a) The opening statement of the article reads; "A feast of memory was the reward when more than 2,000 Weston Collegiate ex-students thronged the school..." In actual fact, many of the 2,000 plus registrants were spouses of the ex-students and/or staff who were not alumni of the School. One can reasonably speculate that the number of ex-students may have been in the region of 1,200 to 1,400 with the balance being members of the School's staff (active and retired) and/or spouses.

(b) Near the bottom of the first page the author states that along one wall, *Conning Tower* magazines were arranged chronologically, from 1910 to 1957. In actual fact, the first issue of the *Conning Tower* was printed in 1927; consequently, it is probable that the documents covering the period 1910 to 1926 were other magazines or newsletters of the School and not the *Conning Tower*.

Our Centennial Weekend: an excerpt from the 1958 *Conning Tower*

A feast of memory was the reward when more than 2,000 Weston Collegiate ex-students thronged the school and its grounds during the three eventful days of October 18, 19 and 20 last fall for our centennial celebrations.

All voted the centennial a great success, and paid tribute to the many of Weston's present-day staff and students who had worked hard for months to bring it about. Our visitors wandered about the old familiar scenes – and the new, unfamiliar ones too – making new friends and finding old ones, enjoying a brief step back into history, recalling past happy school days. A wealth of memories brought back many forgotten ghosts.

On Friday afternoon, the opening whistle blew for the start of the football game between York Memorial and Weston, and our centenary was under way. The game was enlivened with a half-time display by Weston's new 60-piece military band that Mr. Dvorak had developed.

In the evening – registration having gone on since 2:00 p.m. – Mr. Oliver Master supervised a showing of pictures in the auditorium entitled Historical Reminiscences. This was given twice to accommodate the big crowd that wanted to attend. At nine, dancing started with two bands – one for modern dancing in the boys' gym and one for square dancing in the girls' gym. Those who just wished to visit and meet old friends could find them easily, as certain rooms were set aside for graduates of certain years. However, a lot of conversation was carried on right in the halls, as guests, wandering about, found many ex-classmates.

Those who wanted a permanent souvenir of the occasion – and just about all of them did – could purchase a copy of Miss Wattie's 100-year history of the school, replete with fascinating accounts of Weston's founding and its early days, and with pictures of the old school and the events that took place there. This was a real labour of love for the head of our history department, as she spent months gathering material from many sources. Miss Wattie's book has since been recognized as a very valuable contribution to the local history of York County.

Saturday afternoon the program resumed with further registration of guests and guided tours of the school, with a number of Weston girls in the dresses of a couple of generations ago. acting as hostesses, as they had done on Friday.

On Saturday, however, the highlight was the official centennial ceremony in the auditorium. Mr. A.C. Heakes, chairman of the centennial committee, introduced Mrs. S. J. Norman, chairman of the Weston Board of Education, who commented on Miss Wattle's book and paid tribute to the gentlemen of the Boards of the past in carrying the torch of higher education. Mr. Heakes then introduced Principal Worden, who graciously welcomed the weekend guests and conveyed his thanks to the members of the board and the many others who helped to make the centennial a success.

The guest speaker, Dr. F.D. Cruickshank, once a member of the board, was then introduced by Mr. Heakes, and gave a most interesting talk on the school's founding and early history, with a glance at the town's history as well. (An abbreviated account of Dr. Cruickshank's speech will be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Conning Tower*).

Following this, an epic poem *The Lost World of Christopher Skye* was read by its author Mr. E. Yost, a graduate of 1943, who said he had dedicated his poem to teachers, to the era of the horse and buggy, to the old school, and to town and river ghosts of the past.

Choral background was provided by the Glee Club directed by Mr. Dvorak. The songs were: *Centennial Song*; *Lumber Camp Song*; *Wait for the Wagons*; *War Medley*; *On the Street Where You Live*; *I Could Have Danced All Night*. After the program refreshments were served in the cafeteria and everyone enjoyed meeting school friends and talking over old times.

The centennial came to a thoughtful and reverent conclusion on Sunday afternoon, with a religious service in the auditorium, at which the speaker was the Rev. J.K. Moffat, a Weston graduate, and this was followed by a short concert by the Weston Silver Band under the direction of Mr. Arthur Dobney.

The centennial meant a great deal to everyone who was present. Some, however, found a special link with the past in the Museum, which Miss Campbell had prepared after long hours of searching for tangible mementos of former days.

The atmosphere of the nineteenth century was apparent as soon as one entered the Museum – space for which had been provided in Room 206. A living room scene filled one corner. The details were so exact and numerous that this corner became the main centre of attraction. This was true especially because of the lady who sat spinning and answered the questions of all who stopped to talk to her. Some recognized Mrs. John C. Green as the curator of a Museum that specialized in objects of this particular time, and her replies to questions were interesting, often gay and witty.

Along one wall *Conning Tower* magazines were arranged chronologically, from 1910 to 1957. As former students passed along this table, comments flew. "Yes, there's the article that I wrote. They put it opposite Mr. Worden's picture. I remember." Others laughed, "Look! How she's changed! That reminds me..." Some were calmly reflective as they pondered the changes that time had wrought. "When I came here there were only these eight rooms. That was this centre section. A wonderful thing how..." Another mused over a picture of the winning basketball team in a 1920 magazine, "Seems impossible – the winning team yes, there's the Coach… incredible."

Behind the *Conning Tower* display, books lined the wall. These ranged from dictionaries to nature stories. One book, which one was forced to handle very delicately because of its yellowed, tattered appearance, had been presented to the student who had received the highest mark in science, in recognition of her work and furthermore of her research on various insects. The book was one of many such volumes, treasures of great worth to their owners, and of great interest to others.

Large pictures of clothing styles in 1858 and 1957 hung side by side on the back wall. The contrast was unmistakable. Invariably visitors gasped a startled "Oh!" at the first glance.

Beneath these were several books which described courses offered by the school in different years. The High School of 1911-1912 had four courses:

- Teachers' Course;
- University Course – for students intending to continue schooling in University;
- Business Course – leading to position as mechanics, farm hands; and
- Agricultural Course – which offered farming as a way of life.

There were some notes on the history of Weston in the students' handwriting, also on the back wall. These were neatly and clearly outlined, and interesting reading.

In the centre of the room, documents were on display under glass. These included letters written and sealed with wax, maps crumbling with age, and legal notices. The fact that they had been written as long ago as 1857 filled them with a feeling of being very precious, a feeling which was heightened by the protecting glass.

Scrapbooks of photographs lined the wall by the windows. There is an aliveness in photographs which preserves the rough tweed of those coats, the growth of the school, progress and change, and the laughter and singing of the students which is the same regardless of the year.

And so it was that many people were transported in memory to their young manhood and blossoming girlhood and were happier for the experience. Others who entered only mildly curious, remained fascinated, and left enriched by their visit to the centennial museum.

It would be impossible to name all those who in various ways contributed to the successful organization of our centennial celebrations. Mr. Worden, of course, was the guiding spirit throughout, while Mr. Christie did the lion's share of the work in arranging the weekend program. Contributions of Miss Campbell and Miss Wattie have already been referred to. A long, tedious job was entrusted to Mr. Scott and a corps of commercial students— this consisted of tracking down graduates of the school and then sending out invitations. There is no space to mention others, but each individual involved made a most valuable contribution and to everyone goes a special word of thanks.

One difficulty encountered was that many old records of the school had been lost. The original school, for instance, was burned in 1875, and most of the earliest minutes of the Board of Education were destroyed. However, former pupils were able to fill in the odd gap here and there when it came to recording the school's history.

As a matter of record, we would like to list the names of those ex-students attending, but space obviously would not permit us to do so. However, it might be of interest to refer to those who registered who would also have attended the school's 50th birthday celebration in 1907. These are, with the year of their last attendance:

Mr. J. Barrett Barker (1904); Mrs. Chas. Beatty (1905); Mr. Harold Boake (1902);
Mr. J.C. Boylen (1903); Mr. Nelson A. Boylen (1907); Mrs. J.A. Cassan (1894);
Mr. Alec Cruickshank (1904).

Mr. F. Keith Dalton (1904); Mr. Herbert 0. Dixon (1906); Mrs. Charles Eagle (1904);
Mr. William C. Duncan (1903); Mr. E.G. Farr (1907); Mr. C. Lorne Fraser (1902);
Miss Dorothy Garbutt (1907); Mrs. A.W. Greaves (1898); Miss Helen V. Grubbe (1890);
Mr. Talbot P. Grubbe (1898).

Miss Elizabeth Hamshaw (1905); Miss J. Irene Hanshaw (1903); Mr. J. H. Leighton (1898);
Mr. Roy Lindsay (1907); Mr. George Musson (1904); Miss Eva N. Nattress (1901);
Mr. A. W. Pearsod (1903).

Mr. F.A. Pearson (1893); Mrs. W.E. Pearson (1907); Mr. N. Riley (1905);
Mr. Henry G Robb (1892);Miss Edythe Savage (1905); Mrs. G.H. Scott (1892);
Mr. Vernon Snider (1905); Mr. Clarence Stong (1907);

Mrs. R.S. Stonehouse (1904); Mr. W.J. Thomson (1902); Mr. Herbert P. Wardlaw (1905); and Mrs. G. Wynn (1907).

Good wishes and congratulations came from many sources. One of them was the following letter from Hon. Dr. W.J. Dunlop, Ontario Minister of Education to Mr. Worden, which might be a fitting conclusion to our account:

> *"My dear Mr. Worden:*
>
> *The occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of what is now the Weston Collegiate Institute and Vocation School furnishes me with a welcome opportunity to pay official and personal tribute to the magnificent contribution which this institution has made over the long years to the town of Weston and its surrounding community.*
>
> *The full extent of this contribution no one may adequately measure. However, when one thinks of the never-ending stream of boys and girls who have entered this school as comparative children and have emerged, after four or five years, as potential citizens soon to become members of the professions of commerce and industry, or of that great body of home-makers whose influence is perhaps most important of all, even the most ordinary imagination must be impressed by the influence which this school has exerted.*
>
> *May I extend to you, as Principal for the past 21 years, and to all the members of your staff, worthy representatives of the long line of able and devoted teachers who have transformed buildings and equipment into a living institution, my sincere appreciation of work well done, and my most cordial congratulations on this historic occasion."*

125th Anniversary Reunion, October 15, 16 and 17, 1982

Nearly 3,000 alumni, spouses and members of the School's staff (some active and some retired) registered for the 125th Anniversary of WCI in 1982. The program of events was:

Friday, October 15, 1982

2:00 p.m.	Senior & Junior Football Games – Weston vs. East York Registration – a fee of $5.00 per person covered all Reunion Activities
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Golden Tea for all alumni that attended WHVS 50 years ago (or more) Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria
6:00 p.m.	Registration Guided Tours of the School Continuous slide show in the School Auditorium Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria
8:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies in the School Auditorium
8:30 p.m.	Meet and Greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria
10:30 p.m.	School Closed

Saturday, October 16, 1982

10:00 a.m.	Registratio– Hall near the Cafeteria Entrance
	Continuous slide show in the Auditorium
	Guided Tours of the School (hourly)
	Meet and Greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria.
	Hockey
	School Orchestra
7:30 p.m.	Dinner Dance at the Jane Seven Country Club (Jane St. South of Hwy 7)

Saturday, October 17, 1982

11:00 a.m.	Ecumenical Service in the School Auditorium
	Presiding Clergymen were:
	Reverend Jack Moffat – United Church, Thornhill, Ontario
	Reverend Donald Laing – United Church, Saskatoon, Sask.
	Reverend Gerry Butterworth – Anglican Church, Longlac Ontario
	Reverend Craig Cribar – Presbyterian Church, Newmarket, Ontario
	Reverend Frank Gower – Anglican Church, New Liskeard, Ontario

The Weston Collegiate Band and Choir under the direction of John Milosh performed.

Most people who attended the 125th Anniversary Reunion of WCI felt that it was a resounding success both financially and socially. Of the nearly 3,000 registrants, an estimated 1,100 paid $20 per person to attend the Saturday night dinner-dance at the Jane Seven Country Club. After all bills were paid, the profits realized from registration fees and the Saturday night dinner/dance totalled nearly $5,000 and this was turned over to the newly-created Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) to be administered as a School Assistance Fund. In addition, approximately $3,300 was received as charitable donations – mostly from the attendees that had pre-registered by mail for the Reunion. As a result, the WCAF, which was recognized as a registered charity on January 1, 1983, inherited a bank account with a balance of nearly $8,300. A brief historical review of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation is appended to this Chapter.

That the 125th Anniversary reunion was so successful is somewhat remarkable, given that the Organizing Committee was not established until February 1982 and had less than eight months to organize the event. In contrast, Jarvis Collegiate alumni began working on their 175th Reunion nearly three years before the anniversary date of July 1982. It should be acknowledged that Weston Collegiate's Organizing Committee received several valuable pieces of information from its Jarvis Collegiate counterpart such as:

(a) The venue for a Saturday night dinner-dance should be booked about two years in advance to ensure optimum accommodation.
(b) Memorabilia with the School Crest such as lapel pins, rings, mugs, tee shirts, paper weights were not popular and sales were disappointing at Jarvis CI.
(c) The establishment of an "Alumni Association" was recommended to administer a School Assistance Fund and to organize future reunions.

(d) Efforts to establish a date that suits everybody are largely a waste of time – such a date does not exist.

Formation of the Organizing Committee for WCI's 125th Anniversary Reunion is an interesting story. In February 1982, the School invited a dozen or so prominent alumni to attend a meeting in the School Auditorium for the purpose of establishing an Organizing Committee. Each alumna/alumnus was asked to bring three or four of their colleagues to the meeting with the result that some 30 to 40 persons attended, including a few members of the School's teaching and secretarial staff. The meeting was chaired by Frank Irving, Principal of WCI, who had a single agenda item, namely, he asked persons in the audience to nominate persons present for different positions such as Chair of the Organizing Committee, Treasurer, Sub-Committee Chairs, etc. The Organizing Committee that eventually evolved included:

Chairman	Bill Newbold
Vice-Chair	Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne
Vice-Chair	Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman
Secretaries	Patricia McGuigan, Linda White
Treasurer	Allan Chard
Program Committee	Orlando Martini
Dance Committee	Linda White, Sheilah (Semple) Rogers
Publicity	Peter Ferguson, Vice-Principal WCI and June (Corcoran) Chard
Archives	Art Hatton
Registration	Barbara (Cruise) Putnam
Student Contact	Bob Lord
Catering & Refreshments	Murray Antram
School Liaison	Carolyn Collyer, Vice-Principal, WCI Angela Gleadall, Administrative Assistant, WCI

Many unnamed persons served the various sub-committees that were established, and it must be acknowledged that few if any of the sub-committees were highly or formally structured.

Some highlights of the 125th Anniversary Reunion are presented below in chronological order.

Both WCI football teams lost to archrivals, the East York Goliaths during a blustery afternoon that included intermittent rain, sunshine, windy periods and temperatures around 10°C. Final scores were

Seniors: East York: 29, Weston: 0
Juniors: East York: 20, Weston: 8

- The Golden Tea was an outstanding success in that about 100 "senior-seniors" (ages 70 plus) were expected and at least double that number arrived. As a result, the convenors, Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne and Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman plus several students were called upon to wash dishes during much of the afternoon.

- The Opening Ceremonies proceeded smoothly with all of the guest speakers limiting their comments to greetings and good wishes for a successful reunion. The Master of Ceremonies for this event was Bill Newbold, the energetic and able Chairman of the Organizing Committee and the welcoming address was delivered by Carolyn Collyer, the newly-appointed Principal of WCI. Greetings and good wishes were offered by Gayle Christie, Mayor of the Borough of York and Evelyn Pollock, the Chair of the York Board of Education. Wes Boddington then declared the Reunion officially underway and introduced Art Hatton and Bill Robb who presided over the unveiling of the corner stone that had been salvaged from the main entrance of the old school (1913 building) and mounted near the east wall of the new school. This unveiling was seen by the Auditorium audience via closed circuit television. The Opening Ceremonies concluded with a colourful performance by the WCI cheerleaders who were runners-up in the 1981 Ontario Championships and Champions in 1982.

- Saturday was an enjoyable day when many were able to renew acquaintances with colleagues and friends in the often-crowded decade rooms and in the cafeteria. The evening dinner/dance was somewhat of a disappointment in that line-ups for the buffet dinner and bar were generally long and the music was excessively loud.

- An estimated 300 persons attended the Sunday Ecumenical Service in the School Auditorium.

- The bulk of the registrants were residents of Southern Ontario. However, a few living outside of Ontario also attended including:

Margaret Ann (Gemmell) Markwick (class of 1952) London, England
Victor Tweedy (class of 1949) – Sooke, Vancouver Island
Donald Laing (class of 1952) – Saskatoon, Sask.
Deanne (Ashwell) Nelsen (class of 1955) – Detroit, Michigan
Joe Dabrowski (class of 1952) – Detroit, Michigan

130th Anniversary Reunion, October 16 and 17, 1987

Six hundred and ninety-eight alumni, spouses and members of the School's staff (some active and some retired) registered for the 130th Anniversary of WCI in 1987. The program of events was:

Friday, October 16, 1987

2:30 p.m.	Registration – a fee of $2.00 per person covered all Reunion Activities
2:30-4:00 p.m.	Golden Tea for all alumni that attended WHVS 50 years ago (or earlier)
7:00 p.m.	Registration in the Hallway near the Cafeteria Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria.
7:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies in the School Auditorium
8:00 p.m.	Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria Guided tours of the School (hourly)
10:30 p.m.	School closed

Saturday, October 17, 1987

10:00 a.m.	Registration – Hallway near Cafeteria entrance Guided Tours of the school (hourly) Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria
5:00 p.m.	School Closed
7:00 p.m.	Dinner-dance at the Holiday Inn on the Airport Strip
8:00 p.m.	Meet & Reminisce Designated decade areas Tour "Hall of Memories" and "Sports Wall of Fame"
8:00 p.m.	Wine & Cheese Reception – Cafeteria

Saturday, October 11, 1997

10:00a.m.	Town of Weston Tour A walk through the colourful history of the old town (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m.	Meet and Reminisce Designated Decade Areas and Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	Alumni Hockey Game Weston Arena: Game 1 – alumni 60 and over Game 2 – alumni under 60
3:00 p.m.	Family Skate -Weston Arena
6:30 p.m.	Reception/Dinner Gala event at the Toronto Airport Marriott. Dinner and dance tickets $50; dance only tickets $20.
8:30 p.m.	Dance

Sunday, October 12, 1997

10:30 a.m.	Church Service Ecumenical service in the School's Auditorium
11:30 a.m.	Closing Ceremonies - School Auditorium

Participants in the ecumenical service were:

Rev. Frank Gower
Retired Pastor of Chapleau – Foleyet, Ontario Anglican Church
Dr. Donald Laing, St. Andrew's United Church, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Reverend Jennifer Reed, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Mississauga, Ontario
Mrs. Pat (Desmond) Sibley, Soloist
Mr. Bruce Chapman, Pianist
Mrs. Shirley (Ellerby) Brett, Event Coordinator

Overall, the 140th Anniversary Reunion of WCI was considered a financial and social success. A net profit of $4,742 was realized and approximately 60% of that was turned over to the School to purchase a digital

Saturday, October 17, 1987

10:00 a.m.	Registration – Hallway near Cafeteria entrance Guided Tours of the school (hourly) Meet and greet former colleagues in Decade Rooms and/or the Cafeteria
5:00 p.m.	School Closed
7:00 p.m.	Dinner-dance at the Holiday Inn on the Airport Strip
8:00 p.m.	Meet & Reminisce Designated decade areas Tour "Hall of Memories" and "Sports Wall of Fame"
8:00 p.m.	Wine & Cheese Reception – Cafeteria

Saturday, October 11, 1997

10:00a.m.	Town of Weston Tour A walk through the colourful history of the old town (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m.	Meet and Reminisce Designated Decade Areas and Cafeteria
1:00 p.m.	Alumni Hockey Game Weston Arena: Game 1 – alumni 60 and over Game 2 – alumni under 60
3:00 p.m.	Family Skate -Weston Arena
6:30 p.m.	Reception/Dinner Gala event at the Toronto Airport Marriott. Dinner and dance tickets $50; dance only tickets $20.
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Dr. Donald Laing, St. Andrew's United Church, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Reverend Jennifer Reed, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Mississauga, Ontario
Mrs. Pat (Desmond) Sibley, Soloist
Mr. Bruce Chapman, Pianist
Mrs. Shirley (Ellerby) Brett, Event Coordinator

Overall, the 140th Anniversary Reunion of WCI was considered a financial and social success. A net profit of $4,742 was realized and approximately 60% of that was turned over to the School to purchase a digital

imaging computer to enable the graphics design staff to produce the Conning Tower in-house. Although registration was less than expected (937 vs. an expected 1,200), the comments received suggests that a good time was had by all. As in the past, the Alumni Foundation received excellent support from several members of the School's staff, as well as students and members of the Board of Education. In situations where dozens of volunteers can play a pivotal role in organizing a reunion, it is dangerous to name a few names without naming others. On this occasion, however, the Alumni Foundation extends special thanks to the late Jan Thor, a WCI Vice-Principal for her tireless efforts and many hours of dedicated service.

The Organizing Committee for the 140th Anniversary Reunion of WCI was chaired by Ms. Kimberly Marshall, President of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation. Members of her Committee included:

Publicity and Student Contact	Doug Musselwhite – Chair Robert Heath, June Musselwhite, Doug Ord, Wayne Plunkett, John Hall, Jane Ross, Stewart Hill, Jan Thor, Gail McCardle
Secretary	Pam Willett
Treasurer	Orlando Martini
Registration	Carol (Brown) Gibben, Jo-Ann Wallace, Dana (Dobson) Winder, Debbie MacNaughton, Jim Stenhouse
Graduate Students' Tea	Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne, Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman
Staff Reception	Angela Gleadall, Marisa Giorno
Decade Rooms	Stewart Hill, Joan (Livings) Young, Helen (Jennett) Cooper, Larry McGuire, Rudy Miller
Football Games	Bob Nadin, Paul Campbell
Hockey and Family Skate	Jack Look, Ted Holden
Dinner-Dance and Decorations	David Sararas, Joan Wardrope
On-Going Slide Show	Bob Ryan
Barbeque	Vicki (Bunda) Marshall, Carol (Brown) Gribben, John Gribben
Wine and Cheese Reception	Doug Standing
50/50 Draw	Lynn (Sommerville) Childs
Town of Weston Tour	Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne, Marjorie (Knapp) Mossman
Ecumenical Service	Shirley (Ellerby) Brett, Bruce Chapman
Closing Ceremonies	Kim Marshall, Orlando Martini

Some highlights of the 140th Anniversary are presented below in chronological order:

- Both Weston football teams defeated their Jarvis CI rivals. To quote Principal Tony Kerins, "the second oldest public high school in the greater Toronto area (Weston CI) defeated the oldest." (Jarvis CI is 50 years older than Weston CI).

- The Opening Ceremonies proceeded smoothly and all speakers limited their comments to congratulations and well-wishes. The Weston Silver Band started proceedings with their arrangement of "O Canada" after which, Principal Tony Kerins welcomed guests and the speakers – Mr. Sam Wales, Chairman, York Board of Education; Mr. Norman Ahmet, Director of Education, York Board; John Latimer (official opening); and Kim Marshal (closing remarks).

- The invited honoured guests included:

Mrs. Carolyn Collyer	Former Principal, WCI
Mr. Gerard Kennedy	MPP
Mr. Michael MacDonald	Councillor, City of York
Ms. Frances Nunziata	Mayor, City of York
Mr. John Nunziata	MP
Mr. Larry Rogers	Former Principal WCI
Ms. Bonnie Taylor	Trustee, York Board of Education
Ms. Jan Thor	Vice-Principal, WCI
Mr. Harris Hill	Former Principal, WCI
Mr. George Graham	President, WCI Student Council
Mr. Alan Tonks	Chairman of the Metro Toronto Council

- The oldest alumna to register at the 140th Reunion was Mrs. Florence (Cairns) MacKenzie of Guelph – age 95 years young! (story in Chapter Two hereof).

- The oldest alumnus to register at the 140th Reunion was Mr. Arthur Hollinsworth of Etobicoke, Ontario – age 88. A retired Air Canada pilot (in his day it was Trans Canada Air Lines), Mr. Hollinsworth still wears the gold ring that he received from Queen Juliana of the Netherlands when he flew her family from Halifax to Ottawa where the Dutch Royal family was granted political asylum during World War II.

- Most of the registrants that came to the School's 140th Anniversary Reunion were from Southern Ontario. However, there were a few from the USA, one from London, England and a few from other Canadian provinces thus:

Margaret Ann (Gemmell) Markwick	London, England
Lorraine (Jennett) MacGregor	Rivière Beaudette, Quebec
Donald Laing	Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Victor Tweedy	Sooke, Vancouver Island
Marilyn (Graff) Harrison	Vancouver B.C.
Ginnie (Jarvis) Gobien	Tusket, N.S.

Suzanne (Michael) Patton	Maple Ridge, B.C.
Melba (Richardson) Burns	Vancouver,, B.C.
Gail (Morgan) Wallace	Vancouver Island
Jane (Helmer) Giancola	Oldsman, Florida
Don Mertens	Rochester, Michigan
Robert Millie	Nonesboro, Georgia
Deanne (Ashwell) Nelsen	Northville (Detroit) Michigan
Kempley and Nancy Taylor	San Juan Capistrano, California
Calla Thompson	Syracuse, New York

It should be noted that all of the foregoing out-of-towners pre-registered for the 140th Reunion. Some out-of-province alumni (not listed) may have registered at the door.

- The 140th Anniversary Reunion of WCI was scheduled for the Thanksgiving long weekend at the request of a few vocal alumni. The somewhat disappointing turnout suggests that this week-end should be avoided in future.

145th Anniversary Reunion, October 19, 2002

Over 550 alumni, spouses and members of the School's staff (some active and some retired) registered for the 145th Anniversary of WCI in 2002. The event was a relatively low-key but enjoyable wine and cheese reception in the School's cafeteria where many photographs and memorabilia from different decades were on display. Students provided guided tours of the School and registrants were free to wander through the corridors and view photographs in the Hall of Memories and the Sports Wall of Fame. At the end of the day, attendees were free to have dinner wherever they chose. The Organizing committee was told about three organized groups, namely:

- Doug Musselwhite arranged for several of his classmates (class of 1957) to meet for dinner at the Central Restaurant.
- Fulvio Sansone similarly arranged a get-together for several of his colleagues from the 1970s at another restaurant
- Orlando Martini entertained 20 of his colleagues from the early 1950s at his home. It is believed that other groups were also organized.

Considering it was a half-day celebration only, the 145th Anniversary Reunion was considered a success both socially and financially. After paying all bills, a profit of $1,192 was realized from registration fees ($5 per person), cash bar receipts and a 50/50 draw. One expense which did not apply to earlier reunions but did apply in 2002 was the School Permit fee of $567 to cover caretaker services and a building-use fee. Such charges were waived by the York Board of Education prior to amalgamation but became a policy of the new Toronto District School Board after it was formed in 1999.

Members of the 2002 Organizing Committee were:

Chair	Douglas Standing
Vice-Chair	Kimberly Marshall
Secretary	Dana (Dobson) Winder
Treasurer	Orlando Martini
Publicity	Douglas Musselwhite, David Sararas, Jane Ross
Decade Displays	Stewart Hill, Helen (Jennett) Cooper, Vicki Marshall Carol Latimer, Steve Bakalar, Wayne Plunkett
School Liaison	Libert Castillo – Principal, and, Marisa Giorno
Registration	Carol (Brown) Gribben, Lynne (Sommerville) Childs, Dana (Dobson) Winder, Joan (Wood) Crawford, Don Richardson, June (Anderson) Musselwhite, Sheila (Crane) Bishop

As in the past, most of the persons who registered for the 145th Anniversary Reunion were residents of Southern Ontario. However the 551 registrants included five International visitors and eight Canadians from outside Ontario thus:

Gregg McKelvey	Banorara Point, Australia
Margaret Ann (Gemmell) Markwick	London, England
Jim Markwick	London, England
Barbara (Gunstone) Isaacs	Dayton, Ohio
Deanne (Ashwell) Nelsen	Northville (Detroit), Michigan
Pamela (Shakesby) Benvenutti	Mercier, Quebec
Jim Britton	West Vancouver, B.C.
Silvija (Vejins) Britton	West Vancouver, B.C.
Margaret (Worden) Evans	Montreal, Quenec
Marilyn (Graff) Harrison	Vancouver, B.C.
Margaret Laing	Moose Jaw, Sask.
Donald Laing	Moose Jaw, Sask.
Victor Tweedy	Sooke, Vancouver Island

Appendix to Chapter 10
The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

A brief historical review of The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

Early in August 1982, the Organizing Committee for the School's 125th Anniversary Reunion appointed Orlando Martini to chair an ad-hoc committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a permanent alumni association which Revenue Canada would recognize as a registered charity capable of issuing receipts for income tax purposes to persons making donations. A Constitution modelled after that of Jarvis Collegiate's Alumni Association was submitted to Revenue Canada in mid-August 1982 and status as a registered charity was granted to the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) effective January 1, 1983.

The first meeting of the WCAF's founding Executive Committee took place early in February 1983 when the following persons assumed the offices indicated:

Honorary President	Mrs. Carolyn Collyer, Principal of WCI
President	Mr. Orlando Martini
Vice-President	Mrs. Sheilah (Semple) Rogers
Treasurer	Mr. Allan Chard
Secretary	Dr. Douglas Heathfield

Under the terms of its Constitution, the principal mandate of the WCAF is to sustain and administer a School Assistance Fund which provides aid in such areas as Bursaries, Scholarships, Library, Orchestra, Athletics, etc., all within the prevailing Revenue Canada regulations that govern registered charities.

In the months prior to the 125th Anniversary celebrations, former students of Weston Collegiate contributed approximately $3,300 to the Foundation for which official receipts for income tax purposes were issued. With some of these funds, the Foundation undertook a number of projects, including:

1) A sepia-tone portrait of Mr. A. Pearson (Principal of Weston Collegiate from 1914–1936) was made up from a good quality black and white photograph borrowed from his daughter-in-law. The Foundation placed this framed portrait in the School beside the portraits of other principals in February 1984.

2) A new portrait of Mr. C.W. Christie (Principal of Weston Collegiate from 1958 to 1969) was made up to replace the original which had become badly faded. The Foundation placed this replacement portrait in the School in March, 1984.

3) Following a decision to establish a Weston Collegiate Alumni Award, a commemorative plaque was designed by Mr. William Robb, a member of the staff of Weston Collegiate and a dozen plaques were made up for future winners. It was decided that Weston Collegiate Award plaques would be presented on a regular basis (but not necessarily annually) to students who had:
   - Successfully completed Grade 11 at Weston Collegiate Institute (WCI).

- Demonstrated outstanding leadership and good citizenship.
- Contributed significantly to the School's extra-curricular activities and/or to community activities.

To date, the following students have received WCAF Award Plaques:

1983	Miss Donna Morton and Mr. Kirth Murray
1984	Miss Michelle Gregory and Mr. Robert Gutray
1985	Miss Sharon Wallace and Mr. Brian Pittana
1986	Miss Olga Antzoulatos and Mr. Duck Soo Chang
1987	Miss Kate Ashbourne and Mr. Daniel Ferguson
1988	Miss Christine Gribben and Mr. Erwin McKen
1989	Miss Rene Van Megellen and Mr. Angelo Belavia
1990	Miss Louise James and Mr. Mahendra Persaud
1991	Miss Ann Simeonoff and Mr. Timothy Wells
1992	Miss Lori Marzinotto and Mr. Matthew Smith
1993	Miss Heather Horne and Mr. Donald Drummond
1994	Miss Samira Walli and Mr. John Gardhouse
1995	Miss Megan John and Mr. Hamish Khamisa
1996	Miss Katie Sullivan and Mr. Anthony Mores
1997	Miss Natalie Sheriffe and Miss Abosede Taiwo
1998	Miss Sarah Jane Jambaro and Mr. Michael Lewis
1999	Miss Eleanor Belshaw-Hauff and Mr. Albert Cheng
2000	Miss Andrea Dart and Miss Emily Hayter
2001	Miss Lien Le and Mr. Stevie Perrotte
2002	Miss Sureka Tharumakulasingam and Mr. Nathan Cox
2003	Mss Mariam Moktar and Mr. Keelan White
2004	Miss Aria Atwell and Mr. Peter Newhook
2005	Miss Jennifer Eversley and Mr. Shire Brandi
2006	Mr. Brent Gunning and Mr. Florind Polo
2007	Miss Essence Russell and Mr. Sam Keen

4) The winners of the Weston Collegiate Alumni plaques are featured on full page advertisements in the *Conning Tower*. By purchasing these full page advertisements, the Foundation provides annual financial support to the School's Year Book.

5) In October 1986, a solid walnut roster board was mounted in the hall of Weston Collegiate near the School's main office. A replica of the Weston Collegiate Alumni plaque is mounted in the upper left hand corner of the roster board beside the names of the fifty award winners selected to date (June 2007). As new award winners are chosen, engraved castings with their names will be added to the board.

6) Since November 1985, the Foundation has awarded bursaries, cash prizes and funding in excess of $35,000 to WCI students and the School.

7) In 1988, the Foundation commissioned Barbara Leewis (a WHVS Grad) to prepare a pen and ink painting of the original Technical/Commercial wing of the "old" School. The painting, which perpetuates the memory of "Gerry" McLean and Ray Scott (Technical and Commercial Directors for over three decades), was presented to WCI on March 13, 1989.

8) The Foundation worked with the School to establish a "Hall of Memories" – a series of photo collages mounted in 4 ft. square picture frames. The first four collages went on display in the School in October 1992, and currently (2007) there are over 25 frames containing photos and memorabilia.

The executive officers of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation hold office for two calendar years. Towards the end of their term, a bi-annual meeting is called to elect a new Executive Committee (usually in November or early December). All former students and members of the School's staff are welcome to attend bi-annual meetings.

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Awards

Background Information

The terms of reference for the Weston Collegiate Alumni Awards are based on a number of suggestions received from Mrs. Carolyn Collyer (Principal of WCI from 1982 to 1987), plus some ideas from the Executive Members of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF). The ideas and views which generated the terms of reference may be summarized as follows:

- In 1983 when the awards were instituted, the School had many awards for students completing Grades 12 and 13. Accordingly, it was decided that the WCAF Awards would be for students completing Grade 11. It was further decided that two awards would be made each year, one to a girl and one to a boy provided that suitable candidates were found.

- It was decided that the WCAF Awards would not be based on high academic achievement, athletic prowess or any other single attribute. Rather, the Award Winners would be "well-rounded" students that achieved reasonable grades (not necessarily first class honours) and were a credit to the School through their involvement in extra curricular activities and/or community volunteer work.

Terms of Reference

Provided that suitable candidates are found, the Weston Collegiate Alumni Awards will be presented annually to two students who have:

- **successfully completed** Grade 11 at WCI
- **shown outstanding** leadership and good citizenship
- **contributed significantly** to the School's extra curricular activities and/or community services

Honours academic standing is not a requirement for this Award.

Selection of Winners

The Honorary President of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation is the Principal of WCI or the Principal's duly appointed representative (often a Vice-Principal). The Honorary President, in consultation with the School's Scholarship committee, will annually prepare a list of potential candidates for the WCAF Awards towards the end of the school year. It is suggested that the list be restricted to 8 candidates or less except in unusual circumstances.

The Executive Committee of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) in consultation with the Honorary President, will prepare a short list of candidates and will arrange to interview each one individually. Based on the interviews and the data presented by the School, the WCAF Executive Committee will select the two winners, usually one boy and one girl but not always.

Historical Notes

The first two WCAF Awards were presented in 1983 and each consisted of an attractive walnut plaque which included a casting with the award winner's name. The award plaques were designed by Bill Robb, a member of the Technical School staff who, with Angela Gleadall, also established WCI's Hall of Memories. From 1983 until 1993, the Award Winners received a plaque only and in 1994 they received both a plaque and a $100 cheque. The monetary award was raised to $200 in 1999 and to $300 in 2000.

Constitution of The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

The original Constitution of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation (WCAF) was modeled after the Constitution of the Jarvis Collegiate Alumni Association (JCAA), an organization that had been granted Registered Charity Status by Revenue Canada several months before the WCAF applied. A copy of the JCAA Constitution was provided to Orlando Martini by Mr. Robert F. Moore, P.Eng., a prominent Toronto Consulting Engineer and Jarvis Collegiate alumnus.

Under provisions of the original Constitution, the WCAF Executive Committee was made up of six persons, namely:

- The Honorary President – the Principal of Weston Collegiate Institute or a member of the School's staff (often a Vice-Principal) duly appointed by the Principal.
- The President
- The Past President
- The Vice-President
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer

This committee serves for three years.

Over the years (1983-2007), the WCAF Constitution has been amended a number of times with the most noteworthy changes being:

- Officers now serve a two-year term rather than three years.
- The Executive Committee has been enlarged from the original six to twelve by the addition of six Members-at-Large.

- The Executive Committee was further expanded from twelve to fourteen by the addition of a Communications Director and an IT Director in 2003. The Communications Director is responsible for disseminating alumni news while the IT Director is responsible for operating the WCAF website.
- In the Original Constitution, an alumnus was any person who attended Weston Collegiate for at least one school year (September to June) through enrolment in either day or night school classes. In 2005, membership in the WCAF was expanded to include: any person who has attended, taught or worked at Weston Collegiate for at least one school year. This includes ex-students, Principals, Vice-Principals, teaching staff, secretarial staff, caretakers, school nurses, cafeteria workers, etc.

The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation website

At the bi-annual meeting of December 6, 1999, Fulvio Sansone was asked to explore the feasibility of establishing a website for the Foundation with guidance from Jane Loney, one of the School's Vice-Principals who had a computer science background.

Within a few weeks, Fulvio had a website in place that included information about the Foundation plus a good selection of photographs that had been scanned from several issues of the Conning Tower. Fulvio continued to operate the website (www.geocities.com/westonalumni), for approximately sixteen months and in April 2001, turned it over to Bob Williams and Stephen Bakalar.

At the Executive Committee meeting of January 22, 2002, Bob Williams and Stephen Bakalar unveiled their new website, (westonalumni@yahoo.com) and indicated that they had made extensive use of Fulvio's earlier work. Although Members of the Executive were favourably impressed, Messrs Williams and Bakalar found that advertising on the website tended to be irritating and recommended that it be eliminated by paying an extra fee of approximately nine dollars US per month. This recommendation was accepted. With Bob William's resignation from the WCAF Executive Committee during the summer of 2002, Stephen Bakalar continued to operate the new website with periodic assistance from Fulvio Sansone.

At the October 9, 2003 meeting of the WCAF Executive, Stephen Bakalar advised that Nicola "Nick" Paonessa had redesigned the Foundation's website at no cost and had given it an impressive professional look. Nick is a WCI graduate from the mid 1980s and he earns his living by designing websites for industrial and commercial companies. At the bi-annual meeting of December 2003, Nick joined the WCAF's Executive Committee as its Information Technology (IT) Director, a newly created position. He has operated the website (www.westonalumni.com) continuously since January, 2004.

Past and Current Officers of The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

Calendar Years 1983, 1984 and 1985

Honorary President	Carolyn Collyer, Principal of W.C.I.
President	Orlando Martini
Vice-President	Sheila (Semple) Rogers
Treasurer	Allan Chard
Secretary	Douglas Heathfield

Calendar Years 1986 and 1987

Honorary President	Carolyn Collyer, Principal of WCI
President	Orlando Martini
Vice-President	Robert E. Scott
Treasurer	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Secretary	James Coulter
Members at Large	Sheila (Semple) Rogers, Allan Chard

Calendar Years 1988 and 1989

Honorary President	A "Tony" Kerins, Vice-Principal, WCI
President	Robert E. Scott
Past President	Orlando Martini
Vice-President	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Treasurer	Kimberly Marshall
Secretary	James Coulter
Members at Large	Sheila (Semple) Rogers, Barry Vail, Jo-Ann Wallace, Richard White

Calendar Years 1990 and 1991

Honorary President	Larry Rogers, Principal, WCI (1990) Jan Thor, Vice-Principal, WCI (Jan. '91 to Aug. '91) Colleen Baycroft, Vice-Principal, WCI (Sept. '91 to Dec. '91)
President	Robert E. Scott
Past President	Orlando Martini
Vice-President	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Treasurer	Kimberly Marshall
Secretary	Jo-Ann Wallace
Members at Large	Helen (Lawrence) Lee, Sheila (Semple) Rogers, Barry Vail, Richard White

Calendar Years 1992 and 1993

Honorary President	Colleen Baycroft, Vice-Principal, WCI (Jan. '92 to Aug. '92) Steve Cann, Vice-Principal, WCI (Sept. '92 to Aug. '93) Jan Thor, Vice-Principal, WCI (Sept. '93 to Dec. '93)
President	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Past President	Robert E. Scott
Vice-President	Barry Vail
Treasurer	Orlando Martini
Secretary	Jo-Ann Wallace
Members at Large	Larry Halycs, John Hill, Helen (Lawrence) Lee, Kimberly Marshall

Calendar Years 1994 and 1995

Honorary President	Jan Thor, Vice-Principal of WCI
President	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Past President	Robert E. Scott
Vice-President	Jo-Ann Wallace
Treasurer	Larry Halycs
Secretary	Orlando Martini
Members at Large	Robert Heath, Kimberly Marshall, James Stenhouse, Joan (Pender) Wardrope

Calendar Years 1996 and 1997

Honorary President	Jan Thor, Vice-Principal of WCI
President	Kimberly Marshall
Past President	Carol (Brown) Gribben
Vice-President	Jo-Ann Wallace
Treasurer	Larry Halycz
Secretary	Orlando Martini
Members at Large	Robert Heath, Robert E. Scott, James Stenhouse, Joan (Pender) Wardrope

Calendar Years 1998 and 1999

Honorary President	Jan Thor, Vice-Principal, WCI (until Sept. '98)
	Stephen Knight, Vice-Principal, WCI (Sept '98 –Sept. '99)
	Sharon List, Principal,WCI (Sept.. '99-Dec '99)
President	Joan (Pender) Wardrope
Past President	Kimberly Marshall
Vice-President	Robert Heath
Treasurer	Vicki (Bunda) Marshall
Acting Secretary	Orlando Martini
Members at Large	Stewart Hill, Debbie MacNaughton, Orlando Martini, Tony Morano
	Rob Ryan, Fulvio Sansone

Calendar Years 2000 and 2001

Honorary President	Jane Loney, Vice-Principal, WCI (Jan. '00 to Aug. '00)
	Sharon List, Principal, WCI (Sept. '00 to Dec '01)
President	Joan (Pender) Wardrope
Past President	Kimberly Marshall
Vice-President	Robert Heath (Jan. '00–Oct. '00), Douglas Musselwhite (Nov. '00–Dec. '01)
Treasurer	Vicki (Bunda) Marshall
Acting Secretary	Orlando Martini (Jan. '00 – Dec. '00)
Secretary	Dana (Dobson) Winder (Jan. '01 – Dec. '01)
Members at Large	Robert Heath (Jan. '01 – Dec. '01), Stewart Hill, Orlando Martini,
	Douglas Musselwhite (Jan. '00 – Oct. '00), June (Anderson) Musselwhite,
	Fulvio Sansone (resigned Spring, 2001), Robert Williams

Calendar Years 2002 and 2003

Honorary President	Libert Castillo, Principal, WCI
President	Douglas Musselwhite
Past President	Joan (Pender) Wardrope
Vice-President	Robert Heath
Treasurer	Orlando Martini
Secretary	Dana (Dobson) Winder
Members at Large	Stephen Bakalar, Joan (Wood) Crawford, Vicki (Bunda) Marshall, June (Anderson) Musselwhite, Katherine Beaty (joined Jan 2003), Robert Pontarollo (joined Jan 2003)

Calendar Years 2004 and 2005

Honorary President	Libert Castillo, Principal, WCI (Jan '04 to Dec '04) Jane Loney, Acting Principal, WCI (Jan '05 to Feb '05) Angela Petitti, Principal, WCI (Mar '05 to Dec '05)
President	Douglas Musselwhite
Past President	Joan (Pender) Wardrope
Vice President	Robert Heath
Treasurer	June (Anderson) Musselwhite
Secretary	Dana (Dobson) Winder
Communication Director	Orlando Martini
I.T. Director	Nicola Paonessa
Members at Large	Stephen Bakalar, Katherine Beatty, Marion (Maurer) Fuller, Vicki (Bunda) Marshall, Betty (Bruyns) Muir, Robert Pontarollo

Calendar Years 2006 and 2007

Honorary President	Angela Petitti, Principal of WCI
President	Robert Heath
Past President	Douglas Musselwhite
Vice President	Stewart Hill
Treasurer	June (Anderson) Musselwhite
Acting Secretary	Dana (Dobson) Winder
Communication Director	Orlando Martini
I.T. Director	Nicola Paonessa
Members at Large	Marion (Maurer) Fuller, John Gardhouse, Betty (Bruyns) Muir, Dana (Dobson) Winder

Weston Ironmen In Action - 1960s

125th Anniversary Reunion – 1982

L. to R.: Mary Jean (Kennedy) Rumball, Pat (Armstrong) Best, Dick White, Mary Ann (Gemmel) Markwick, Mary Jane Knapp) Asselstone, Orlando Martini, Helen (Shewfelt) Arnold

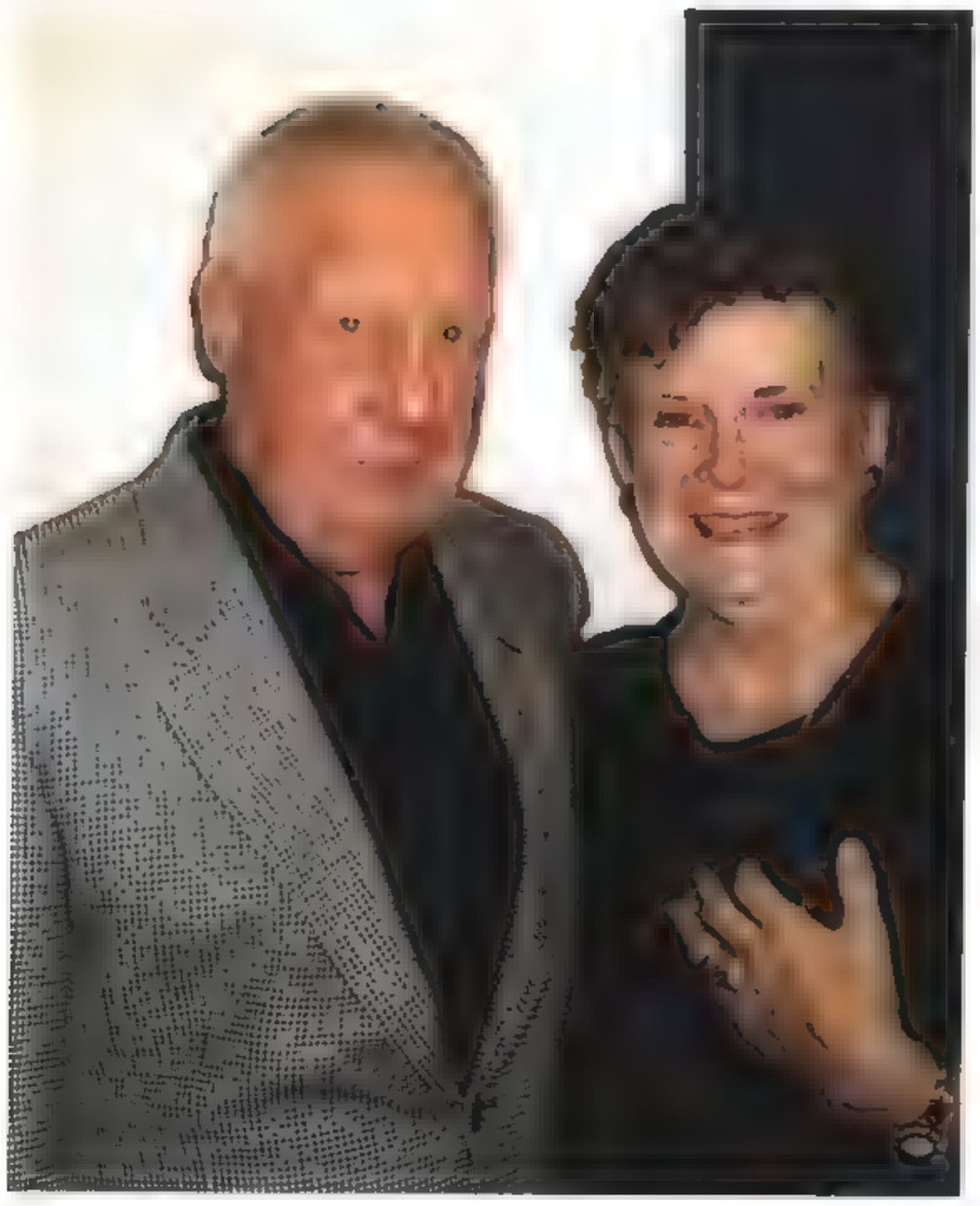
140th Anniversary and Renion 1997 – A Decade Room

140th Anniversary and Reunion 1997 – Jack Look's vintage convertible at the Dinner Dance

140th Anniversary and Renion 1997 – Carol Latimer and Kim Marshall

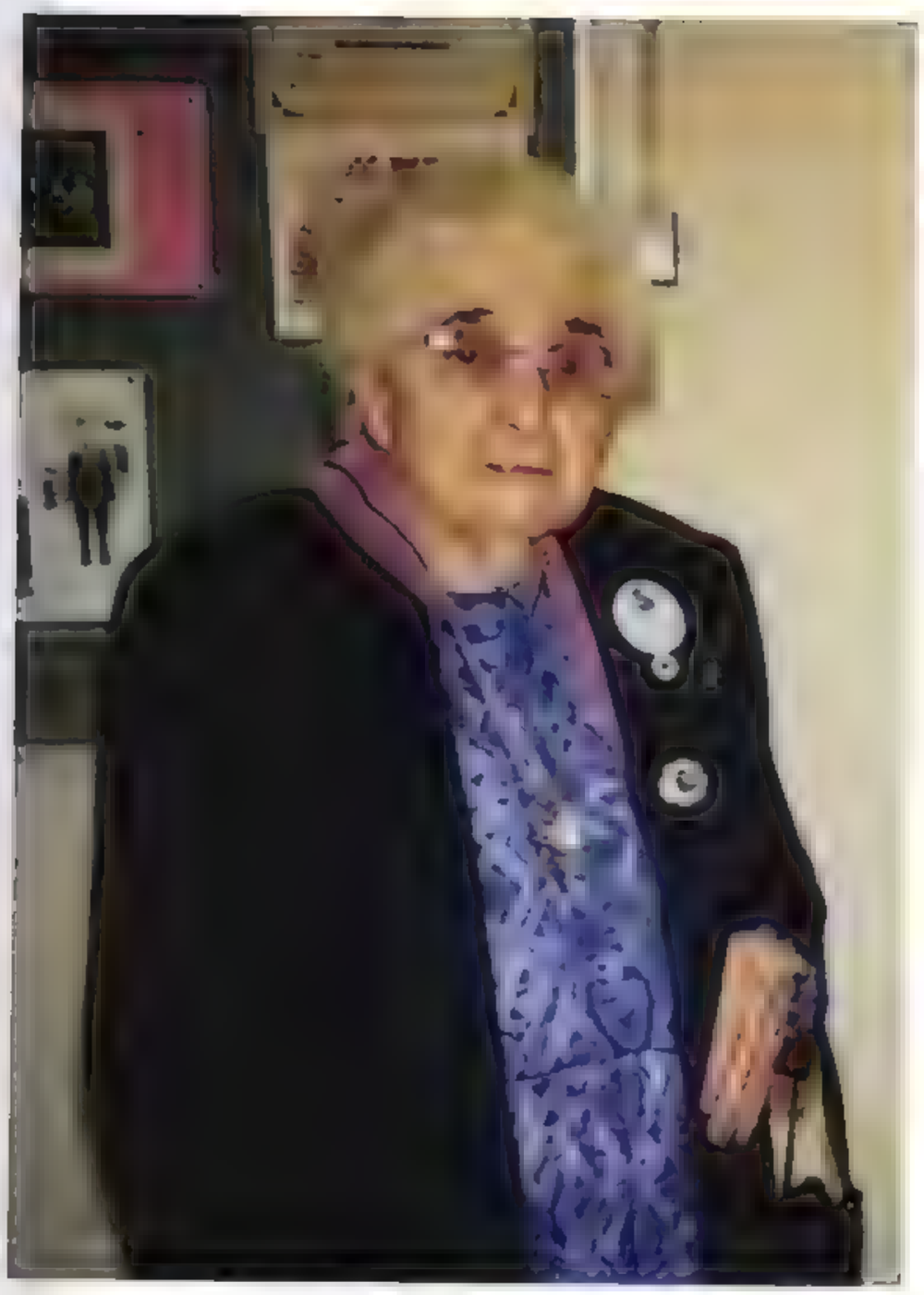
140th Anniversary and Reunion 1997 – Mrs. Florence Mackenzie and Principal Tony Kerins

145th Anniversary and Reunion, October 19, 2002
Organizing Committee
Front Row (kneeling) – Kim and Vicky Marshall
Back Row L. to R.: Stew Hill, Dana (Dobson) Winder,
Orlando Martini, Joan (Wood) Crawford, Steve Bakalar,
Doug Musselwhite, June Musselwhite,
Larry McGuire, Doug Standing



145th Anniversary and Reunion, October 19, 2002
Ron Hurst (former Toronto Maple Leaf Forward) and
Joan (Wood) Crawford)
So far as can be reasonably determined, Ron Hurst is the
first Weston Collegiate Alumnus to ply hockey in the NHL

140th Annerversary and Reunion, October, 1997 –
The Over-Sixty Hockey Teams



Mrs. Florence (Cairns) MacKenzie at the 140th Anniversary and Reunion, October 1997

The sterling silver ring of Mrs. Florence Mackenzie who graduated from Weston High School (WHS) in June 1922. Fourth (IV) for meant Grade 12
Photo courtesy: Robert Williams

145th Anniversary and Reunion – October 19, 2002
L to R: Wesley Turner, Frank Best, Patricia (Armstrong) Best, Margaret-Ann (Gemmell) Markwick, Barbara (Gunstone) Isaacs, Margaret Laing, Donald Laing

Benefit golf tournament organized by Steve Bakalar Bob Pontrarollo for the WCAF – August 14, 2004
Left to right: Orlando Martini, Bob Pontarollo, Steve Bakalar, Betty Muir, Lorne Marseau, Sandy Marseau, Grant Marshall, Allan Sloan, David Hamilton, Lou Bunda, Marion Fuller, Carlo Vigna, Jim Wilson, Tuffy Zidner, Brian Mielke

Vocational wing as seen from MacDonald Avenue – 1980s

Weston Rd. looking south from Lawrence Ave., 2007
The Bank of Nova Scotia was rebuilt in 1960-62. The drivers' licence office relocated in 1960 to Wilby Cres. , and in 2004 relocated again to Wincott Dr. in Etobicoke. The front of Weston Park Baptist Church is visible to the right, and the gray-white building in the background is the Bethel Apostolic Church of J.C. (former site of the Biltmore Theatre.) The space in between was occupied by West End Chrysler dealership until about 2005, and is vacant at this time while awaiting redevelopment. Behind the church are two high-rise apartments buildings – 1775 and 1765 Weston Rd.

Weston Rd. looking north from Lawrence Ave., 2007
The building facades on the east side have little, but the business operators have.

Weston Rd. at Elsmere, 2007
A TD Canada Trust branch occupies the post office site. The north corner, now occupied by a Shoppers drug Mart saw a car dealership (Little Bros.), and a Steinberg Miracle Mart groceteria in the intervening years. In the left background is the seniors' residence at 15 King St., and to the right is the apartment at 33 King St.

A.T. Squibb's store at 1974 Weston Rd. during a parade in 1953 celebrating the Queen's coronation. Sea cadets pass by on the left. The CIL store on the left is now (2007) occupied by P & M restaurant. The white circle below the "p" of "Simpsons" indicated that a pay phone was available inside the store.

Centennial Parade 1981 on Weston Rd. at King St.
The fine hall is across the street, now owned by Ward Funeral Home. Adjacent to the left is the former municipal office building which replaced (c.1957) the old Town Hall (Dufferin Mall), now (2007) a parking lot for Ward Funeral Home.

Centennial parade 1981, outside the former municipal offices.
Ladies in period dress (Connie Switzer, Alison and Marj Mossman and Flo Shaw) in a vintage automobile pass in front of the viewing stand.

Weston Collegiate and Vocational School circa 1960

Chapter 11

Changes to Weston Collegiate since World War II

Milestone events

1945 – World War II ends, Honour Roll unveiled outside Town Hall
1947 – New Baptist church built
1948 – Sea Cadet Building officially opens, Weston Senior Public School opens
Streetcar service replaced with electric trolley buses, Main St. rebuilt
Weston Collegiate senior football team named "the Ironmen" by Toronto Telegram
1949 – Weston Lions Arena opens
1950 – Humber Memorial Hospital opens, Cenotaph at Little Avenue Park unveiled
1951 – Weston Presbyterian church enlarged
1952 – New Westminster United Church built, new direct-dial phone numbers introduced
New Bandshell built in Little Avenue Park
1953 – New St. John the Evangelist church built
Metropolitan Toronto created to oversee 13 local municipalities
1954 – Highway 401 opened to by-pass Toronto, Hurricane Hazel in October
1955 – Arnold Palmer wins his first professional golf tournament at Weston Golf Club
St. Philip's Anglican church enlarged
1957 – Town Hall closes as a civic building
New Weston Municipal Building opens, new King Street School built
WCVS celebrates 100th anniversary: Miss Dora Wattie authors *One Hundred Years: A Retrospect*
1960 – Main Street renamed Weston Road, Lawrence Ave. underpass opens
1962 – New Post Office built and opens
1964 – "Old" Weston Town Hall demolished
1966 – New St. John's elementary school built, added to 1954 building
1967 – Weston amalgamates with York Township, Canada Centennial, Expo 67 in Montreal
1974 – 33 King Street, a 31-storey high-rise apartment building, built
1977 – York Local Architectural Advisory Committee (LACAC) established, Weston Historical Society founded
1981 – Weston Centennial, celebrating the incorporation of Village of Weston in 1881
1986 – Weston Area Emergency Support, local food bank, opens in February
1998 – York and five other municipalities amalgamated into City of Toronto
2003 – The problem of duplicate street names resolved in our favour
2004 – Heritage District plans
2005 – Blue 22 Proposal, the Air Rail Link (ARL) between Union Station and Pearson Airport
2007 – Little Ave. Park refurbished, bandshell demolished and new one built

In 1945 Weston was a town of approximately 6,000 to 7,000 people, covering an area of 655 acres or just over one square mile (640 aces); pretty well cut off from the city of Toronto. The CNR train ran from Union Station, stopping at West Toronto (south of St. Clair Ave. West) and then Weston on its way to Georgetown and Sarnia. Roughly 100 or more commuters went to Toronto in the morning and home to Weston in the evening. The CPR train ran from Union Station, stopped at West Toronto (near Dundas and Dupont Sts.), then Weston on its way to Sudbury and the West.

There was also a twinned streetcar line which ran up Weston Road from "the Junction" at Keele and Dundas Streets, past the stockyards, Swift's meatpackers and Canada Packers at St. Clair Ave. West, past Acme Screw and Gear south of Rogers Road, and on up through Mount Dennis to the Face-Elle Co. (now Irving Tissue) at St. John's Rd., now named Clouston Ave. Weston Road was a modern paved street south from Clouston Ave. This was the south end of Weston and the south end of Main Street. Here the car line became a single track continuing up the centre of a road which was not in very good condition, to Humber Street (now St. Phillip's Road). There was a twinned section of track just north of King Street, opposite the Weston Theatre (now occupied by the Weston Postal Building built in 1962 on property which had been occupied by the Weston Theatre and the Weston Cottage Hospital). This twinned section allowed a streetcar to go roughly halfway to the north end and wait for the southbound car to pass.

At the north end there was no loop for the streetcars to turn around. Before beginning the southbound journey, the driver took the handle which operated the electric motor controller at the north end of the car, to the controller at the south end of the car, together with his fare box and tickets. He also repositioned the backs of all the seats so that passengers would look south towards the new "front of the car. He then got out of the streetcar and lowered the south pole which contacted the overhead electric power line, and went to the north end where he raised the north pole to make contact with the overhead line – often with a big spark. Now he was ready to go south. Main Street was completely rebuilt in 1948-49 to modern standards. In 1948 the "Red Rocket" (a.k.a. the "Red Rattler" and the "Toonerville Trolley") streetcars were replaced with electric trolley buses.

Weston was a prosperous commercial hub; it was a town with its own mayor and council, police force, fire station and school board. The firefighters were volunteers and were called to action by blasts from the whistle at the Canada Cycle & Motor (CCM) factory on Lawrence Ave. West just east of the railroad tracks. Weston was surrounded for the most part by fields and farms. Lawrence Ave. West stopped short of the Black Creek going east where it became a dirt road with a small bridge over Black Creek, and just west of Royal York Road going west. Jane Street became a dirt road north of the Oakdale Golf course going north, and going south the paving stopped on the north side of the valley leading into the Eglinton Flats where several market gardeners grew much the same types of produce as are found today in the Holland Marsh. Oak St. at the north end of town went east from Main St. to the CPR tracks where it became a dirt road after serving the Satin Finish hardwood flooring plant, which still operates, and Canadian Gypsum which closed in the mid 1980s. Beyond to the east was the famous Brick Pond where every kid in the north end of Weston learned to skate and play hockey. Beyond that again was the Pelmo area. It was named from a combination of Messrs. Pellatt (of Casa Loma fame) and Moffat (of Moffat Stoves) who had had land interests in the area. The Pelmo area was the home to many settlers from eastern Europe who had come to the area between the wars.

The old Town Hall was located at the northwest corner of Little Ave. and Main St.; it had one jail cell, and the firehall was beside it on Little Ave. The upper room/public meeting space was named Dufferin Hall. In 1949 a new firehall was built at the north end of the site. In 1957 a modern Municipal Building was built just north of the old Town Hall, and then the old building was torn down in 1964 to provide a parking lot for civic employees and visitors. When Weston was amalgamated into York Township in 1967 the employees were relocated to York's municipal building on Eglinton Ave. West, and Weston's new town hall became redundant. For a few years it saw various commercial uses. The firehall remained in use. In 1994 Ward's Funeral Home purchased the property and converted the firehall into a garage and offices, with the site of the town hall becoming a parking lot for Ward's business. A new fire station was built on the south side of Lawrence Ave. West opposite the intersection with Ralph Street.

There was a Mechanics' Institute Library in the Town Hall as early as 1883, but a new library was built in 1914 on King St. just east of Main St. with a grant of $10,000 from the Andrew Carnegie foundation, and has served the area uninterruptedly until the present day. In 1976 the Borough of York Library Board adopted plans for a new library on the site. The existing building was to be razed and a modern structure of steel and glass built. Marjorie Campbell was the catalyst for a groundswell of opposition. The Weston Historical Society was created and the overwhelming support for the "old" library astonished both the Library Board and York Council. Alternate sites were rejected as was the demolition of the library. The local citizens demanded that any plans incorporate the existing library integrally into the new whole, because of its historic significance and special architectural details. The newly created York Local Architectural Advisory Committee recommended that the building be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, which was done in 1982. Today, the Weston Public Library is one of the architectural gems of Weston.

Weston had three elementary schools (King Street, Memorial and St. John the Evangelist) in the 1940s and one secondary school, as there are now. Weston Senior Public School was built in 1948 to provide grades 7 and 8, thereby freeing up classroom space in the other elementary schools. In 1957 a new King St. school was built on the site, and the old school, constructed in 1892, was demolished. In 1966, at the last meeting of the Weston Board of Education before amalgamation with York Township into the new Borough of York, Memorial Public School was renamed Weston Memorial Junior Public School, King St. Public School was renamed H. J. Alexander Junior Public School, and the Senior Public School was renamed C. R. Marchant Senior Public School. In the early 1970s a new Collegiate was built on the existing site, complete with an excellent indoor swimming pool and change rooms, and the old High School was demolished. In 1993 H. J. Alexander was demolished and reconstructed as a larger and more modern school which opened in 1995 as H. J. Alexander Community School. York Township, which had secondary schools such as Vaughan Road, Runnymede and York Memorial, did not have a vocational school prior to 1953, and students in those catchment areas wanting a practical education and the beginnings of a trade came to Weston Collegiate and Vocational School.

In the 1940s the churches in Weston included Central United, the oldest church congregation in the area (1821), at King and Main, St. John's Anglican on Main north of Fern Ave., St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic church on George St., Westminster United on Main just south of Bellevue Crescent, Weston Baptist on Main just south of Lawrence and Weston Presbyterian on Cross St. During the war attendance

was down at nearly all the churches – so many were away in the forces or connected with war work. But after the war there was a tremendous growth in population – the so-called baby boom – and the churches became filled with local families, necessitating in some cases building expansions of meeting and activity spaces. Westminster sold its property on Main St. South and built a new church in 1952 on William St. next to the high school. St. John the Evangelist built a new church in 1953 on its site. New parishes were established – St. Bernard de Clairvaux in 1950 on Lawrence east of Jane, and St. Philip Neri in 1951 on Jane St. south of Wilson Ave.

Across the Humber River, St. Philip's Anglican church, the second oldest church in the area, is located on St. Phillip's Rd. at the corner with Dixon Rd. In the late 1950s St. Andrew's Humber Heights Presbyterian was built at the south-east corner of Royal York and Dixon Rds. In the Pelmo area, Pelmo Park Baptist church was built in 1958. In the mid-1990s the building was sold and the parishioners joined with Weston Baptist on Weston Rd. and that church was renamed Weston Park Baptist.

A few areas were built up around Weston at the time. The largest of these was probably the Hardington area; pupils came to W.C.V.S. from Hardington public school on the north side of Lawrence Ave. West east of Jane Street. The building still exists but its purpose has changed. During the early years of the war, a small subdivision of wartime housing was built just north of Trethewey Drive on an old flying field. Today, 60 years later, this lovely community of well-kept houses still sets an example of how a single-family area can survive and thrive. Also Maple Leaf public school north of Maple Leaf Drive (still operating today) sent pupils to Weston. North of Oak Street on the west side of Main St. was Humberview public school; it was torn down in the late 1950s because the land was bought by the province for the construction of Hwy. 401. West of the Humber River, in the area of Westmount, Humber Heights school on Lawrence Ave. contributed students. It was torn down in about 2004 to make way for a brand new long term Seniors' care centre named the Village of Humber Heights, with a second phase of self-contained apartments for seniors, recently completed. However, the north and west exterior walls of the school were not torn down but were carefully preserved in place and incorporated into the interior of the new facility to commemorate the life of Humber Heights school. And in the Pelmo area, Pelmo Park Public School was built in 1952 and still serves the community.

Farther afield, pupils from Thistletown, Humber Summit, Woodbridge, Pine Grove, Nashville, Elder's Mills, Edgeley, Kleinburg, etc. were bussed to Weston daily, and a few came from as far away as Nobleton. This practice continued until the mid-1950s when Woodbridge High School was opened.

The Weston area had several important industries – Face-Elle on Weston Rd. at Clouston Ave., Levy's Auto Parts on the west side of Weston Rd. across from Face-Elle, Kodak on Eglinton Ave., Ferranti Electric and Johnson Matthey Mallory on Industry Street, Moffat Stoves at Jane St. and Denison Rd., Canada Cycle and Motor (CCM) on Lawrence Ave., Pressure Castings, Macotta and Felker Dry Cleaners on Main St., Austin French Ivory on Church St., Storrar Dunbrik at the south end of Rosemount Ave. and A. P. Green firebrick on Rosemount north of Church St., Satin Finish and Canadian Gypsum on Oak St., and a Massey-Harris plant at Oak and Main Sts., which became occupied by Fruehauf Trailer (1946 to 1958).

Weston had many successful small commercial enterprises in the 1940s and 50s, concentrated mostly on both sides of Main Street from about a block south of Lawrence Ave. northwards to just north of King Street. There were 5 groceterias on Main St. – Loblaws south of John St., Dominion Stores and A & P north of John, a Red & White on Main St. opposite Church St. and Mallaby's at St. Phillip's Rd. Mr. LePage had a very popular fruit and vegetable store north of Lawrence. There were four butcher shops – Ella's at Church St., Bridgman's south of John, Simpson's, and Charbonneau's at Main and Victoria St. Mr. Joseph Blumenthal (formerly Rowntree's general store since c.1882) was at the north-west corner of Main St and Lawrence, where you could buy a gentleman's suit or a pair of rubber work boots. His property became the local branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in 1950. By the mid 1960s Loblaws and Steinberg's (which arrived in 1966 where Shoppers Drug Mart is now) were the only grocery stores left; Loblaws had relocated to a new store on the west side of the street and a new Kresge's was located next door. The two stores shared a large parking lot at the rear, owned by Kresge's. Nowadays, the Loblaw store (which closed in 1987) is occupied by the Asian Farm Supermarket after lying disused for several years and the Kresge's store was torn down and its land is the parking lot for the groceteria took over the location in 1997 and continues operating. A large Knob Hill Farms grocery store opened about 1985 at the northeast corner of Weston Road and Oak Street but it closed about 2003. The building was demolished in 2005 and in 2006 a new Loblaw's Superstore opened on the site. On Jane St., south of Wilby Crescent but on the east side of Weston Road, a Beaver Lumber Store was established in the late 1950s. This business thrived for roughly 25 years until it closed its doors in the early 1980s. At Price Chopper there was an A & P groceteria in the 1960s and 70s north of Lawrence, and a Power groceteria at the south-east corner of Jane and Lawrence. This store became a No-Frills store in the 1990s, which expanded about 2004 at a new location just south. The store at the corner is now a Salvation Army Thrift Store.

Mens' wear stores included Jack Fraser, Dover Mens' Wear, Elks, Ken Johns and Coleman the Tailor, ladies' wear stores Weisdorf's, Robert's Smart Shoppe, Lady Ellis, Miljays, Marcia Mac, and Cooper Furs, car dealers Little Bros. (Ford), Cruickshank Motors (Mercury), Barter Motors, later Lippay Motors (Chrysler), J. T. Farr & Sons (GM), hardware stores English and Bannerman's (since 1971, the Westlaw Tavern – until 1982 – and the Weston Station Restaurant until early 2007, and now renovated by a new restaurant operator Sardinha), shoe stores Agnew-Surpass, Beck's and Pollock's, restaurants Bonita, Central, Metropole and the Weston Grill (still there as a pizza shop) at the top of Little Ave. (Weston was "dry", so no beer or wine or booze in the restaurants – but you could smoke. Weston became "wet" in 1968, with the newly expanded Central Restaurant & Tavern getting the first licence. Smoking was banned in restaurants in 2002). In 1968 a local developer, Mr. Cliff Winder, constructed a liquor store on South Station St. for the Ontario Liquor Board. It became a very popular store and was one of the earliest in the province to feature self serve. In the early 90s the LCBO relocated to a new larger store at the Crossroads Plaza. The building on South Station St. is now a Montessori school. The Ward Funeral Home was located just north of the library at Main and King Sts. and is still located there. Squibb's the stationery shop has been in business since 1927, and in 1935 moved almost next door to its present location on the west side of Main St. opposite the Weston Post Office which was built in the 1930s and abandoned in 1962 for a new and larger postal building at 2050 Weston Rd. The 1930s Post Office at the south-east corner of Weston Rd. and Elsmere Ave. was a notable example of the Art Deco movement. It remained abandoned for some years until it was sold. The site is now occupied by a TD Canada Trust branch.

There were three bank branches on Main Street – Bank of Montreal at John St., Commerce opposite the end of John St. and Nova Scotia at Lawrence. The Royal came in to the northwest corner of Main and Lawrence, replacing Blumenthal in 1950 or 1951. The Bank of Montreal branch goes back to 1903. It was originally an office of the Bank of British North America, which later merged with the Bank of Montreal. After a four-year stay in a small rented room on Main Street, a new building was built on the present site, and it was vacated in 1958. The bank took temporary quarters in the Old Town Hall to allow the building to be demolished and new premises built on the site, opening in 1960. The Bank of Nova Scotia followed suit; the building was torn down while the branch operated out of the Old Town Hall from December 1960 until the new building was ready for occupancy in February 1962. The Bank of Commerce merged with the Imperial Bank in 1961 and about 1997 the Weston branch – the CIBC – relocated to the Crossroads plaza at Weston Rd. just south of Hwy. 401.

There was a florist shop (Graham's), a radio shop (Mr. Petrie's Weston Music & Radio) selling radios, record players and records, a furniture store operated by Charlie Richardson, a Canadian Tire store run by Murray Rumple with a service garage at the rear run by Herb Dixon. It relocated to the Power Store site at Jane and Lawrence in 1974. There was another repair garage – Bob's Garage – at the northwest corner of South Station St. and Lawrence. After the war Wilf Reeves opened Wilf's Cycle & Sports on John St. and Lindsay Cott ran a gift and notions shop next door.

Mr. Mobbs was the local blacksmith on the west side of South Station Street just south of John, and Mr. Peacock ran a feed store on Main St. a little way north of the Bank of Montreal. On the south-east corner of Main and John Sts. was Inch's Drugstore, then next door south was Bannerman's Hardware, then Loblaws groceteria managed by Mr. Plant (a one-storey Art Deco building), Kirby's the five-and-ten cent store managed by Mr. Edwards, and then Richardson's Furniture under a four-lane bowling alley on the second floor. Pins were set by pin-boys who had to keep their eyes open for bowlers throwing a ball before they finished setting all the pins.

The Eagle House Hotel was situated at the north-east corner of Main and Lawrence and it boasted a pool hall with about 10 tables and six brass spittoons, at times polished brightly inside and out – at other times not so brightly. Near the north end of Main St. at St. Phillip's Rd. stood the Weston Hotel on the north-west corner. It closed (as the Shamrock Hotel) in 1966 and a parkette was created later on the site.

Before, during and for a time after World War II, coal was the main building-heating fuel. Weston had several coal businesses – there was Irvin Coal and Lumber on the east side of Main St. south of Lawrence (where Price Chopper is now located), as well as Hilton Coal about where the evangelical church (formerly the site of the Biltmore theatre) is today; Fortune's Coal was on the south side of Lawrence Ave. opposite South Station St., Wardrope Coal on South Station St. (sold to Jack Allen Building Supplies in the late 1940s), Ayling's Coal on Oak St. and Ashbee's Coal east of the CNR tracks with access from Park St. Each of these coal yards was served by its own railway siding. By the mid-1960s all the coal yards in Weston were gone, as oil had replaced coal as the heating fuel of choice for homes and businesses. Gas was used extensively as the heating fuel for cook stoves but was far too expensive for heating buildings until the 1980s.

In the 1940s, 50s and 60s, Mr. Inch had a very successful drug store at the south-east corner of John and Main, complete with a LONG soda fountain. Pre-Christmas shopping was a delight in that store, and Mr. Inch's son Weldon cruised the whole store to help shoppers with ideas, locating products for them, etc. This site is now a pizza store. There was a very good independent bake shop (which later became part of the Hunt's chain). There were jewellry stores – Saalman's, Dolly Credit Jewellers, Jordan's and Weston Credit Jewellers, several barbers and hairdressers.

The local movie house was the Weston Theatre, located on the west side of Main St. about 100 yards north of King Street Crescent, and just north of the Masonic Hall which is still there. The theatre was owned and operated by Mr. Scott. Films were changed three times weekly, and the Friday-Saturday showings nearly always included a western (cowboy) movie. Saturday matinees were the near-monopoly of the local children – child admission was 10 cents (for a time during the war, admission was three cents if you brought a tub of fat drippings for the war effort). The good guys were cheered loudly, the bad guys were booed loudly, and kissing scenes were greeted by feet stamping menacingly in unison. It was here that Elwy Yost (now retired from TVO) was smitten by the "Magic Shadows" of the silver screen. After Mr. Scott's death in 1948 the theatre changed ownership a couple of times, becoming the Fox Theatre in 1952. In 1951 a new movie theatre – the Biltmore – opened on Weston Rd. south of the West End Chrysler dealership (which had replaced Lippay Motors as the local Chrysler dealer), about 200 yards south of Lawrence. This building is now an evangelical church. The Fox Theatre continued operating until closing about 1960. Many Westonites went "down the street" to the Mount Dennis Theatre on the west side of Weston Rd. south of Jane Street. For a few years in the 1970s it was showing a mixture of foreign films, but it too disappeared – about the early 1980s. Farther afield there were two outdoor drive-in theatres – the Northwest at the north-west corner of Dixon Rd. and Hwy. 27, and the 400 Drive-in on the west side of Hwy. 400 about Finch Ave. These theatres were a post-war phenomenon, and disappeared about the mid to late 1970s. There is no movie house in Weston now – the closest is probably at Yorkdale Shopping Centre. Nearly all the merchants lived locally, owned their businesses, and were personally involved throughout the working day, and afterwards through their local service clubs.

In the 1940s and 50s the modes of transportation for young people were walking and bicycle riding. Only on very special occasions were the older teens permitted to borrow Dad's car – occasions such as the High School prom, or a trip to the Royal Alexandra Theatre in downtown Toronto. Kids used to bike all around Weston, up through Thistletown to Woodbridge and beyond. Streets such as William, Elm, Pine and several others were dirt roads and they were oiled with a very viscous black oil every Spring to keep the dust down and to minimize the size of potholes from vehicles and rain. Every mother in Town berated her children regularly for tracking the gummy black guck into the house. Bicycles made you almost as free as a bird – free to bike up Jane St. to caddy for 50c. a round at Oakdale Golf Club, or up Main St. to caddy at Weston Golf Club; free to bike into the "hinterlands" around Weston to explore.

Swimming: in late June a few boys from the north end skinny-dipped in the Humber a bit south of the St. Phillip's Rd. bridge (the old bridge, which has been replaced) – Bob Gale, Huck Usher, Vern Plant, Jimmy Coulter and some others. The piece de resistance was The Last Man On Deck, good for laughs. About May 24th, Pelmo Park Swimming Pool on the west side of Jane Street opened for the Summer season. It was built about 1938 and operated by Mr. Browning and his son Al; it lasted until the early 1960s. The pool and some adjacent properties were bought by the province and the space is now occupied by part of the Hwys. 400 and 401 interchange.

Weston had a large fairgrounds on the east side of the Humber River and south of Lawrence Ave., with a half-mile dirt track used mostly to train trotting horses. The high school held its annual field day at the fairgrounds – it was an ideal venue for sports, and today is the local centre for soccer, baseball and softball with modern lighting for night games. For a few years after the war there was a lacrosse box at the south end of the fairgrounds, and it was "home" for the Weston lacrosse team. Adjacent to the games fields near the arena is the Weston Tennis club. Clay courts had existed there since the 30s, but in the mid-60s new courts were built along with a clubhouse.

The end of the war in 1945 unleashed a great sense of optimism, and a new energy came to Weston. Veterans returning from the war didn't want new remembrance statues and cenotaphs – the existing ones were fine with some additions – they wanted more useful remembrances. An Honour Roll (which has been lost) was unveiled in 1945 outside the Town Hall, and the World War I memorial built in 1931 was replaced and integrated into the 1950 cenotaph. In 1948 the Weston Lions Club decided to build an indoor ice arena. Starting with a donation of $10,000 (a huge sum in those days), an appeal was made for public subscription, and a new house on Scarlett Road was raffled off. On November 25, 1949, the arena was officially opened by the Honourable Leslie Frost, Premier of Ontario, and became the home of the Junior 'B' Weston Dukes. Artificial ice was installed in 1951, and the Toronto Maple Leafs used the arena for practices. In the 1960s, the first Zamboni in Canada was used to flood the ice. In 1970 the Lions Club turned over ownership of the arena and surrounding lands to the Borough of York. The Borough leased the arena back to the Lions for a nominal annual fee. Now, more than 55 years later this arena still serves the community and still operates under the care and supervision of the Lions Club. Moreover, the Lions Club built an outdoor swimming pool next door to the arena in 1959, and it was officially opened on June 20, 1959, by Mayor Holley. In 1968 the pool was turned over to the municipality. It is now operated by the City of Toronto.

On March 18,1948, the Honourable Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, officially opened the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Building "Illustrious", next door to the future Weston Arena. The Navy League of Canada built the building and it served the local sea cadet corps until the late 1980s. The Corps was co-founded by Mr. Jim Moffat, who was its first Commanding Officer. There was a large boat on the front lawn of the building, and it was put to good use in the days following Hurricane Hazel to assist firefighters and other rescue groups with cleanup in the swollen and fast-flowing Humber River. Over the years the streets of Weston saw countless parades of the sea cadets, and echoes of "Hearts of Oak" still tease our memories and swell our hearts. A condominium apartment building now occupies the site.

Meanwhile, the Weston Rotary Club took on a project to build a general hospital – Humber Memorial Hospital – on Church St. east of Pine. It would be the first general hospital in the area, the closest being Western and St. Joseph's hospitals. Rotarian Mr. Jack Pink was given a leave of absence from J. T. Farr Motors (local GM dealer) and headed up the project. Many individuals responded to the appeal for funds with donations in memory of loved ones. Several fund raisers were held, including raffles for brand new automobiles – a scarce commodity at that time with the war recently concluded – and the hospital was opened in 1950. It underwent an expansion in 1960 and a large expansion in the early 1970s and is a very busy place today. At present it forms part of an integration of three local hospitals – York-Finch, Humber Memorial and Northwestern – and is named Humber River Regional Hospital, Church St. Site. Northwestern is a shadow of its former bustling entity. The provincial government is presently looking at

building a new hospital, which will replace the present three facilities, on the Downsview site of the Ministry of Transportation complex at the south-west corner of Keele St. and Wilson Ave.

After the war there was a surge in the demand for housing. The area south of William St. and east of the High School had been subdivided into lots before the Great Depression, but never built on, so it was a logical location for new growth. Boyd (1948), Patika (1949), Ellis, Speers, Wright, Gibson, William and Macdonald quickly filled up with new houses, the Pelmo Park area north of Church St. was developed in the early and mid 50s, Pelmo Park elementary school supplied graduates to Weston Collegiate. The post-war baby boom fuelled the need for housing. The preferred type was the single family house, and zoning by-laws entrenched this type of housing in and around Weston. There were very few apartment buildings, and these were limited to 3- and 4-storeys. The early 1950s saw the immigration boom, mostly from Europe. English, Scottish and Irish immigrants – mostly with technical skills – were significant in numbers but they blended in well with the people already here and so were not too noticeable. The largest group in numbers in the 50s and early 60s was probably the Italians, and their contribution to Canadian life was particularly significant. Their sweat, muscle, organizational skills and tenacity built our roads, sidewalks and curbs, sewers and watermains, and high-rise buildings. Today Weston reflects the multi-ethnicity of the greater Toronto area.

In the 1950s, Main St. northwards from just north of King St, to the north end of the town was nearly all single-family residential on both sides of the street. The homes on the west side backed on to the Humber River. After Hurricane Hazel in 1954, the Metropolitan Toronto Conservation Authority was created and it secured all the flood plain land adjacent to the river from any further construction of privately owned buildings.

In 1953, in recognition of common problems and the need to seek common solutions, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto was created under the guidance of Mr. Fred Gardiner, erstwhile reeve of Forest Hill, and now (1953) Metro Chairman. Thirteen municipalities came together under one umbrella organization. This permitted access to funds through financing by Metro, and allowing large public works crossing municipal boundaries to be undertaken. One of the key concepts developed was the need to recognize and improve major arterial roads, one of which was Weston Road. Main Street had already been rebuilt to modern standards by the Town in 1948-49. The Weston engineer for the road improvement was Mr. Barrett, PEng; Al Chapman, Ron Grant and Bill Jago were three local lads who worked on the job under his supervision. On April Fool's Day of 1960 Main Street was renamed Weston Road.

Beginning in the early 1960s high-rise apartment buildings – very loosely defined here as six storeys or more – began to appear on Weston Road, mostly on the west side of the street. By the 1970s there were 12 high-rise apartment buildings on the west side of Weston Rd. north of Church St. to St. Phillip's Rd., and two more were added later north of the CN railway overpass. In the early 60s two high-rise apartment buildings were built on Church St., one at the corner of George St. and the other just opposite on the north side. The local residents became active in the Weston Ratepayers group and successfully resisted the further incursion of this type of building into their neighbourhood. For a time in the 60s, 70s and 80s, the prevailing theory was that it cost a municipality less to provide services to apartment units than it received in taxes levied on the individual units. This meant a saving in tax dollars, and consequently more apartments were good as they not only provided housing but a dollar advantage to the community as a whole. Unfortunately, once a number of the buildings were in place it was discovered through studies that

the costs of municipal services to apartment buildings were different (e.g., fire fighting, policing, social services, etc.) from the costs of servicing single family homes, and in fact became greater as the buildings became larger. But by then, with population pressures growing, the municipality was locked into ever increasing numbers of high-rise apartment buildings.

The building that shocked the Weston community was the Lionstar development at 33 King Street. The proposal came before Weston council in about 1964, and was for a 33-storey building – the highest so far proposed in Weston. Public pressure succeeded in reducing the building height by two storeys to 31, and the Weston council in 1966 granted a site-specific approval for the project. In 1967 Weston and York Township amalgamated to form the Borough of York – later renamed the City of York. The amalgamation was not popular in Weston and the new government was viewed with suspicion. The granting of a building permit for a building 31 storeys high in the heart of Weston by the York council roused strong opposition. The council was advised that legally they could not refuse to grant the building permit as the proposal met with the previous approval by Weston. The building was constructed in 1974-75. However, the public dissatisfaction and pressure succeeded in making the community aware of the changes taking place around them, and that if they wanted to influence those changes, they had to organize together.

Ninteen sixty-seven was not only the date of amalgamation with York Township; it was also Canada's Centennial Year. To the amazement of many, several Weston houses were eligible for recognition as having been built prior to 1867, including the "Morley Cottage" at 66 Rosemount Avenue. Marjorie Campbell and Jean Bull McMahon began researching and taking photographs of Weston's older homes. Awareness grew that Weston was different in a good way from the new subdivisions which were now surrounding the community.

The automobile probably became the major influence of change in our society from the 1950s up to the present. It allowed people to travel long distances with little inconvenience. Shopping centres sprang up with good-sized free parking lots; shoppers could buy a whole week's worth of groceries in one trip, plus buy from several stores at the same time and place their purchases into the spacious trunks of their cars. The local shops on Weston Rd. and similar "downtowns" found it increasingly difficult to compete. By the late 80s Loblaws, Kresges and Steinberg's all had left the area. The earliest shopping mall in the Weston area, Crang Plaza, rose at the north-west corner of Jane St. and Wilson Ave. in the early 50s. It was an open type mall, similar to the one now existing across Wilson on the south side, which soon followed. Crang Plaza was renovated and enclosed in the mid 70s, and renamed the Sheridan Mall. Yorkdale Shopping Centre on Dufferin St. south of Hwy. 401 was built in 1964 as a regional shopping mall. When it opened it was the largest mall in Canada; it was soon followed by Fairview Mall, Sherway Gardens and Square One, all of them very large shopping centres, and all within an easy driving distance from the heart of Weston.

Between Lawrence and Elsmere there are now three cheque-cashing stores, and three or more Dollar stores. A new high-rise apartment building was built in 1966 at the north-west corner of Lawrence and Weston Rd., with the Royal Bank on the ground floor, plus a restaurant, a drug store, and a medical laboratory; there are professional offices on the second floor and 13 floors of apartments above. In 1969 demolition of the Eagle House hotel began, and was replaced in 1971 with a 17-storey building named Eagle Manor on the north-east corner of Weston Rd. and Lawrence. The "twin towers" on Lawrence Ave. west of Weston Rd. were

built about 1974. About 1980 another high-rise apartment building appeared at the north-east corner of Lawrence and South Station St. A 20-storey apartment building was built on Bellevue Crescent in the mid-70s as well as two more on the east side of Weston Rd., numbers 1765 and 1775, north of Wilby Crescent and Wright Ave. In 2004-5 a high-rise was built on Lawrence on the old parking lot of the Loblaws and Kresge stores.

Logic would seem to say, that with the tremendous increase in population, the Weston business centre should also be booming. Instead, since the peak of prosperity in the 20 years following the end of World War II, there has been a decline in the variety of stores and in the quality of goods offered. In a society where the automobile is king, the surrounding shopping plazas with their free parking, large chain stores, long opening hours and competitive pricing, are all contributing to squeezing the profit margins of the small local merchants. Some businesses were also subjected to rent increases and forced out. You can probably count on one hand the long time local merchants left in business. Most of the local stores are operated now by renters. Customer parking continues to be a major concern for the downtown merchants with little real solution in sight.

1981 was celebrated as the Centennial of the incorporation of the Village of Weston. A special newspaper was published. A parade was held on July 1st and all dignitaries wore period costume, including the then Mayor of the Borough of York, Gail Christie. Research of Weston's homes was stepped up and 49 buildings were marked as having been built before 1881. This became a matter of great pride both to the homeowners and to the community. Overnight the old houses changed into heritage homes.

Further changes have come to Weston as industry has moved to relocate adjacent to the major highways 400 and 401. For 100 years, industry located adjacent to the railway lines to have access to transportation of goods by rail. Nowadays shipping is done by truck. Former industrial lands have opened up for housing developments (all of them low rise) – Dominion Bridge at Jane and Trethewey, CCM, A. P. Green, Laidlaw Lumber and Canadian Gypsum have all left the area. Lands held by car dealerships have also come on the market. All of the local car dealers have now disappeared with the sole exception of Cruickshank Motors. Grant Brown at the south end, successor to Pink Motors and before that J. T. Farr, was the first, and the site is now row houses built since 1990. Little Bros. used to be where Shoppers Drug Mart is now, but in about 1954 it moved to property bought from Wardrope Cartage on the east side of Weston Rd. south of Coulter Ave. and north of Conron Place. Later, in 1982, its ownership changed to Venture Ford, and in the late 1990s the ownership changed again. It went out of business in about 2001 and is now a complex of row housing. Belmont Chev at Lawrence and Pine disappeared one night about 1996 and was taken over by Dean Myers. Now it has just been redeveloped to row housing.

Weston residents have resisted the invasion of high-rise buildings into the traditional areas of "single-family" homes, and are continuing to do so. The residents also resisted changes to the street names in the area. After the municipalities of Scarborough, East York, North York, York, Etobicoke and Toronto were amalgamated into the City of Toronto in 1998 some people felt that we could not live with streets having the same name, e.g. Elm in Weston and Elm near Queen and Bay Streets in downtown Toronto. The City staff recommended changing the duplicate names, and Weston had 13 of these duplicate names. Each time where there was a public meeting or a meeting of the Works Committee when this issue was raised, Weston had eight or nine representatives all pointing out that changing the names in Weston was not

acceptable. The Weston community was solidly behind this rejection of change. After a couple of years of infighting the local residents and others persuaded the City council that it was not confusing to have duplication of street names so long as an area identifier was included in the address, and in 2004 the Toronto city council voted not to change any names.

At the same time, a study was done with the encouragement of Toronto Preservation Services to review historic Weston to see if it was suitable for Heritage District status. Approval was obtained and the Weston Heritage Conservation District Committee was formed. Photographs were taken in 2005 of all the homes in the proposed Heritage District. The study of the first phase – King St. Cres. and Little Ave. plus Fern to Coulter between the railway tracks and Weston Rd. is complete and has been approved by Toronto city council, with research for the second phase – east of Rosemount to Jane and from William north to Church – underway.

Nowadays the GO train takes commuters to and from Bramalea and Union Station with a stop at Weston. There is a large parking lot on John St. immediately adjacent to the tracks and it is well used by GO train commuters. This parking lot was bought in the 1960s and paid for by the local merchants through a special levy on their taxes. Now it is City property.

On April 28, 2005, SNC-Lavalin, a large engineering company, in partnership with GO Transit, presented an environmental study to more than 3,000 local citizens in connection with a proposed Air-Rail Link (ARL) between Union Station and Pearson Airport which will go through Weston without stopping.The proposed increase in GO train service would add about 20 trains daily with a stop at Weston, but would require no road closings nor increase the current speed of 35 miles per hour. But the proposed privately owned ARL system (to be called the Blue 22) envisages about 140 additional trains daily, every 7.5 minutes on average, at an estimated 60-75 miles per hour. This would disrupt local traffic patterns, affecting Denison Rd., John, King and Church Sts. directly. The Blue 22 is designed to serve businessmen travelling directly between downtown Toronto and the airport. The local Weston people rallied and severely criticized the ARL proposal. This matter is not yet resolved.

There have been significant changes to Weston since the early 1960s when high-rises began to appear. These changes have mirrored the enormous changes taking place in the Greater Toronto Area. Despite these changes, Weston remains a stable residential area with many appealing features – the Humber River (which in 1999 was designated a Canadian Heritage River) and its walking and cycling paths, the fairgrounds, arena and outdoor pool, the tennis courts, and the skateboard plaza built in 2003. Its educational facilities are excellent, as are its long term care and general hospital facilities. Today, in 2007, it appears that the Humber River Regional Hospital Church Street Site, the Northwestern site and the Finch Ave. site will all disappear within the next few years, and the three will be replaced by a new hospital to be located at Keele and Wilson.

Weston has very good access to Toronto's downtown and to Highways 400, 401 and 407. It is also a caring community, with its food bank, its drop-in centres and seniors' centre. Today there is no shortage of most local services – banks, doctors, dentists, lawyers, barbers and hairdressers, real estate offices, florists, restaurants and the like.

After a review of the foregoing changes to Weston, it becomes obvious that Change is an ongoing dynamic in our society. As we recall the past 50 years, it is our hope that the Weston community can preserve the best of the past, as we look forward to tomorrow's challenges and opportunities.

The "Old" Town Hall, an architectural gem which succumbed to the wrecker's ball in 1994 for a parking lot the civic employees and visitors. The hose tower is at the right rear, and was needed to dry out the fire hoses after use.

A 1943 wartime parade passing the intersection of Main St. and Elsmere Ave.
On the right is the entrance to the art deco post office, and the the left is the former Central Hotel,
now (1943) with Clarkson's store and apartment units above and to the rear.

Weston Rd. looking north towards John St. and beyond, June 1955. This photo is shown with the permission of the Toronto Public Library (TRL): J.V. Salmon collection: T34117. The Loblaw store has just relocated to the west side of the street to where the Asian Farm Supermarket is today. The Bank of Montreal at the corner of John St. was vacated in 1958 while a modern branch was built on the site. The steeple of Central United Church is visible in the distance. Trolley bus wires are visible overhead.

Weston Rd. looking south from Lawrence Ave., c.1957.
The sixty-or-so people are lined up to get their new car licence plates, issued every year. The front of the Baptist church is next to the south (right), and in the background are private homes.

The Eagle House Hotel at the north-east corner of Main and Dufferin streets (now Weston Rd. and Lawrence Ave. West), was the centre of much of Weston's social activity from the 1880s onward. It was noted for dancing and roller-skating, as well as for fine dining. In its later years, much of the ground floor housed small stores with rooms to let above. A large pool room on the second floor was a popular spot for young men of the area. This photo was taken shortly before the Eagle House was demolished in 1969 to make way for the Eagle Manor complex.